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Issue 1 Oct/Nov 1992 £2.25

Cross Stitcher

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Bear essentials

6 terrific teddy projects

Stitching nostalgia 1934

Christmas projects – start now!

Real life

"I stitched my favourite pop star"

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ISSUE 1

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Track down that special chart – see our 6-page guide

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Jordan Knight captured in cross stitch

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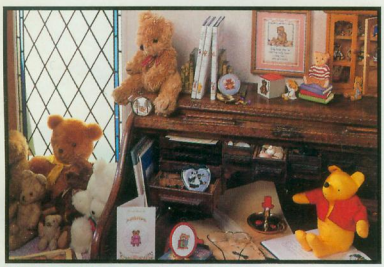

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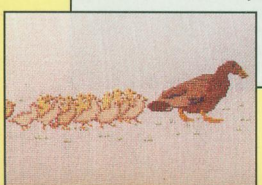

Following the leader: a duck family from 1934.

Welcome to the first issue of *Cross Stitcher*. Whether you are a complete beginner or a dedicated enthusiast eager for more, *Cross Stitcher* is just the magazine for you.

First-time stitchers need only turn over the page for an easy introduction to this fascinating pastime and full step-by-step instructions for making our cover kit.

We have picked some of your favourite themes to fill 32 pages with projects. There's a selection of lovable teddies waiting to be stitched and we didn't forget that you like your Christmas designs early. And why not design your own Christmas cards with our free graph paper.

In between your precious stitching hours, keep busy by trying our puzzle pages or reading about an antique sampler. *Cross Stitcher* is more than just a magazine. Happy Stitching.

Susan

Martin

Susan and Martin Penny, Joint Editors

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0225 442244

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The owl and the pussycat waiting to be stitched

First project

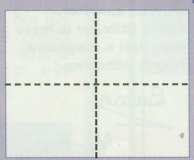
Everyone loves a pretty cottage and this mini sampler is quick to make and a pleasure to receive. Here we give you easy-to-follow instructions for making your card.

Turn to page 88 for a guide to understanding our symbols.

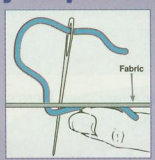
How to start

1. Lay out the contents of your cover kit.
2. Unknot the thread.
3. Identify each colour with its symbol on the key; each symbol on the chart represents one cross stitch.
4. The outline on the chart is in backstitch.
5. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the crosses, and for the backstitch.
6. Only stitch where there are symbols on the chart – the background remains blank.
7. If you have never worked cross stitch before follow our step-by-step guide.

Step-by-step cross stitch

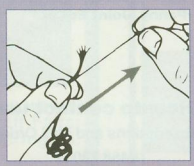


1 Fold the fabric to find the centre.

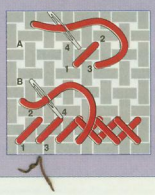


3 Starting at the centre, begin stitching the roof. Push the needle up through the fabric, hold the loose end and pull the thread through. Secure the end with the first few stitches.

4 (A) Make one cross stitch for each symbol on the chart. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3 and down at 4.
(B) For horizontal rows stitch all the way across, then work back. Finish by weaving through the back of the stitches.



2 Starting with the brick red cotton, separate all six strands. Then recombine two of them and thread the needle.



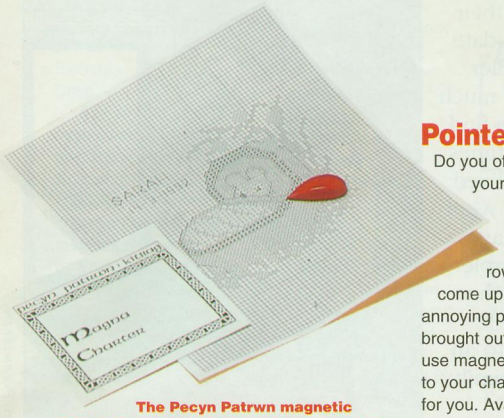
5 Add the backstitches to the letters and numbers using one strand of blue cotton.

Small talk....Small talk....Small talk..

◆ Vintage car fans should look out for Heritage Stitchcraft's new range of 1950s and 1960s classic car designs. (0889) 575256

◆ For new ideas in cross stitch sweatshirt kits, check out Fashion X-stitch at 175 Liverpool Rd, Earlham, M30 6DA.

◆ Il-soft of Oxford has brought out an IBM-compatible PC cross stitch design software package. For details ring (0865) 820115



The Pecyn Patrwn magnetic pointer is one way to keep your place on a complicated chart.

Pointed comments

Do you often find yourself losing your place on the chart you're working from, so that you end up stitching the wrong row? Pecyn Patrwn has come up with a solution to this annoying problem. They have brought out a simple and easy-to-use magnetic pointer which sticks to your chart and keeps your place for you. Available from Pecyn Patrwn Kitbag price £2.50 (+ VAT). Telephone (049 083) 696

event, *Kaleidoscope of Cross Stitch*, in Market Harborough on 3rd October. It promises to be an exciting day out with the chance to meet designer Jane Greenoff. For further details send an SAE to: The Sewing Squirrel, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 9AX.

Tell us about it

We need you to tell us about about any event, club, show or exhibition you think other readers would want to hear about. We are always keen to find out about you, hear your stories and your stitching gossip. If you have something you would like to share, do write and tell us about it. Send your letters to:
Cross Stitcher
30 Monmouth Street
Bath, Avon BA1 2BW

Club Corner

The Kingswinford Cross Stitchers (above) with the picture they stitched for the outgoing minister at their church.

From small beginnings

Margaret Ford of Kingswinford in the West Midlands, started a club by putting a notice in the church magazine. Her original intention was to raise money for the Methodist Church roof fund but after only a week she had recruited 12 members. Over a period of 18 months the club raised more than £300 through mini-markets and coffee evenings. Margaret now holds both afternoon and evening meetings for her stitchers.

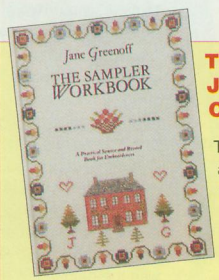
Start your own club

If you love cross stitch and would like to meet other people who share your interest, why not start your own club? Afternoon or evening meetings are a great way to get together with like-minded stitchers, who will soon become your friends.

We will be featuring clubs regularly in *Cross Stitcher*. Send us details of your group and we'll tell our readers about it. But don't forget to enclose a photograph of yourselves.

If you want to set up a club in your area, here are some tips to get you started.

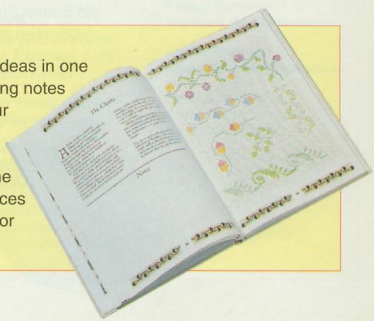
- **Put up a notice in the local shop inviting enthusiasts to contact you, or put one in the local paper, perhaps using a box number. Ask people to include an SAE.**
- **Use the media. You might be able to get the local paper involved if you have a good story, like stitching for charity. This is another opportunity for people to contact you.**
- **Write a list of the benefits your club will offer. Photocopy it, and give it to potential members. Mention any joining costs.**
- **The first newsletter needn't be longer than two sides of photocopied A4 paper.**
- **Approach your local retailer for discounts. Better still, invite them along to a meeting. Set out to show them how much valuable custom your club could generate.**



The Sampler Workbook
Jane Greenoff
Charles Letts, £9.95

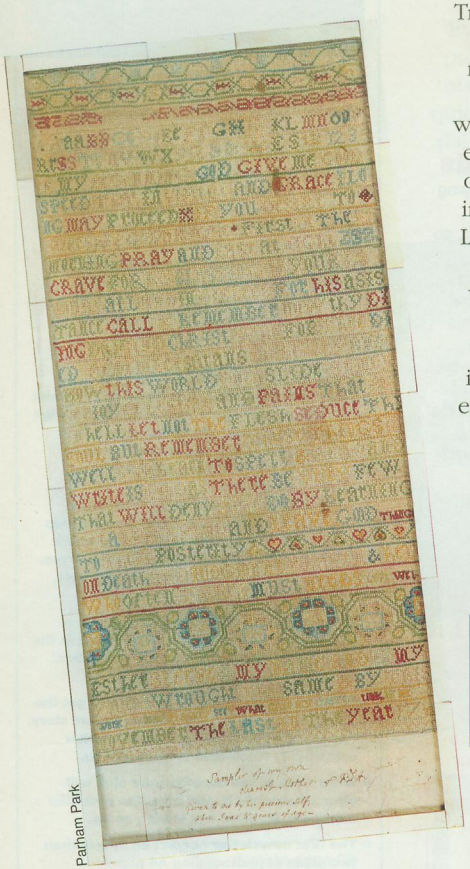
This is the essential workbook for anyone who is about to embark on their own sampler project.

It's full of great ideas for designing popular motifs and includes note pages with graph paper where you can jot down all your ideas in one place. Space for making notes ensures that all of your project information is kept together and you never mislay any of the important bits and pieces like suppliers' names or thread numbers.



Family fortunes

Traditionally, women stitched both their name and the date on to a sampler, which makes it much easier for us to find out about the times in which they lived. Lynda Burgess went to Parham Park where the sampler worked by Esther Sleepe in 1732 introduces us to an extraordinary family.



Parham Park

Esther Sleepe's sampler (above), on which she stitched the rhyme below.

How many visitors to historic Parham House in West Sussex have looked at these beautifully neat words, stitched by seven-year-old Esther Sleepe, and wondered about the story of her life. Was she rich or poor; who did she marry; did she live to a ripe old age? Not many people will know that she was the mother of eight children, one of whom was a famous writer and another was an Admiral who sailed with Captain Cook.

It is easy to appreciate the quality of Esther's work. She covered the now faded pink silk with row upon row of perfectly neat cross stitches using red, blue, yellow, green and cream silk thread. She filled the sampler with narrow rows of letters and added a rose border across the bottom to give some relief from all the lettering. You can just imagine her stitching happily for long hours at a time.

Mary Evans Picture Library

Eighteenth-century women spent many hours stitching (right) – making clothes or doing embroidery.

Did you know?

Girls like Esther would often work a complete alphabet sampler in each of their school years.

S is for sampler

However, the excellence of Esther Sleepe's work was not really exceptional for her times – stitching was considered a very important part of a girl's education. When she grew up she would have to make and embroider her own clothes, as well as design the furnishings for her household.

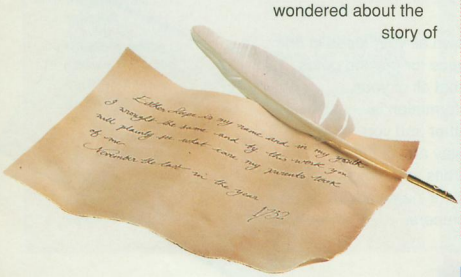
Samplers were a good way of teaching children how to spell as well as how to stitch. Proud parents would carefully keep examples of their children's work, but neither Esther nor her parents can possibly have imagined that 200 years later her sampler would hang prominently as a work of art.

In 1749 Esther married Charles Burney, a court musician and a composer. They moved to a house in Portland Street, Soho where Charles regularly gave music lessons to many famous opera singers and actors.

The Burneys had eight children, but only six of them survived.

Next generation

When her daughter Fanny (who would go on to become a very famous writer) was eight, Esther gave her the sampler as a present. A year later in 1762, Esther died of tuberculosis at the age of 37. The youngest daughter, Charlotte Ann, was only a year old and their grief-stricken father brought the children up himself with the help of his



friend, Samuel Crisp.

As Esther was descended from the aristocratic French Huguenot line, both she and Charles wanted to bring up their children to speak French as well as English. They sent two of their daughters, Esther and Suzanna, to be educated in France. Fanny was educated at home but she spoke French from an early age. Later in life, she married the French General d'Arblay, who had escaped the Revolution and lived with him in both France and England. The sampler may well have travelled across the Channel with her.

Fanny wrote several novels but she is perhaps best remembered for her candid eyewitness accounts of the Napoleonic era.

Pride of place

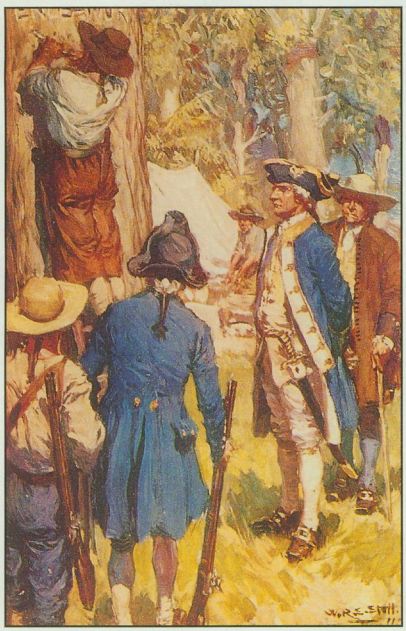
The sampler reappeared at the turn of the twentieth century when it was bought at auction in a job lot of Burney family effects by Lady Brabourne of Parham Park. She was a great admirer of Fanny's writing and hung the sampler in a prominent position at Parham where visitors still admire it today.

And the story doesn't finish there. One of the guests at Parham Park, in Fanny's day, was the famous botanist, Sir Joseph Banks, who had accompanied the great explorer Captain Cook on his first voyage of discovery. On one visit to Parham, Banks is thought to have brought a friend with him – a certain Admiral Burney who had accompanied Cook on his second expedition.

Admiral Burney was, of course, none other than Fanny's elder brother James. So it seems highly appropriate that today Esther's sampler should hang in the house where her favourite son probably stayed as an important guest ♦

Did you know?

Cross stitch is also known as sampler stitch, Berlin stitch or *point de marque*.



Mary Evans Picture Library

The botanist Sir Joseph Banks travelled on the first Cook expedition which landed in Australia in April 1770 (left). Admiral Burney accompanied Cook on his second voyage.

Did you know?

The Huguenots fled France in the seventeenth century and settled in Spitalfields, London. They were silk merchants and ribbon weavers and they introduced some new styles of silks known as lustrings and alamodes.

National Portrait Gallery, London

Mistress of the pen

Esther's daughter, Fanny Burney, was a prolific writer. She published her first novel, *Evelina, or the history of a Young Lady's entrance into the World,* when she was 26 and instantly became famous. Another novel – *Cecilia* – followed before Fanny became assistant Keeper of the Robes to Queen Charlotte, but the long hours on her feet made her ill and she resigned. She married late – at 41 – the French emigré, General d'Arblay, and went with him to France where, despite the danger, she continued to write her eyewitness reports in the midst of the Napoleonic Wars. They had a son, Alex, who became a brilliant mathematician.

Fanny kept a diary all her life. Her writing gives a candid insight into life during the reign of George III (who is said to have once chased her round the room). Her honest and straightforward approach to reporting on the events she was living through earned her much respect back home. She lived to be 80.

Fanny Burney's works are still regarded as literary classics. If you are interested in reading any of her writing, here are some books that you should be able to find in your local library.

Novels

Camilla: A picture of youth
Oxford University Press

Cecilia: Memoirs of an heiress
Oxford University Press

Diaries

The Journals of Fanny Burney, Volumes 1–10
Clarendon Press

Diary of Fanny Burney
Roger Ingram

The early diary of Fanny Burney
George Bell

Dr Johnson and Fanny Burney
Bristol Classical Press

Other books about Fanny

The history of Fanny Burney
Joyce Hemlow; Clarendon Press

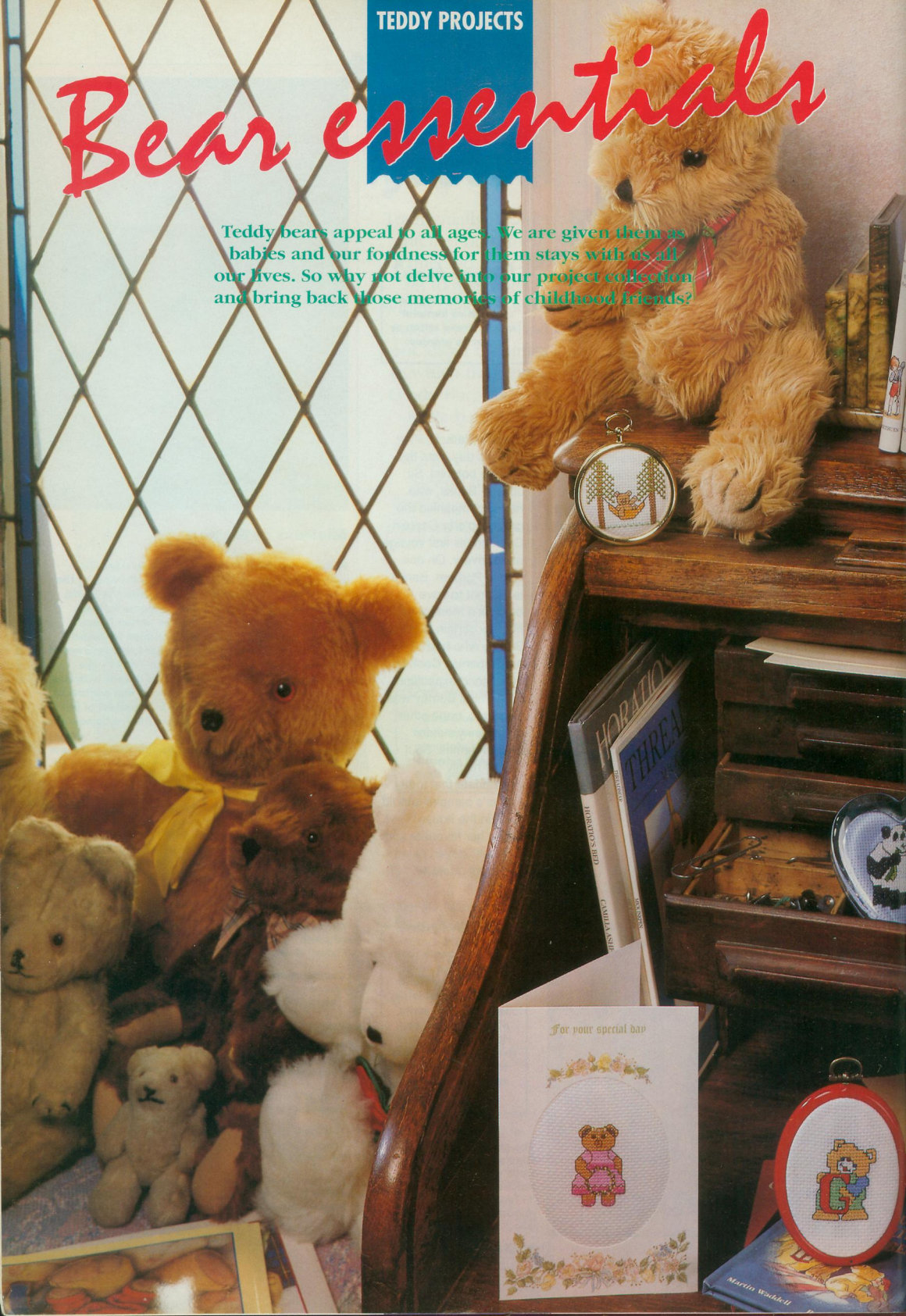
The young Fanny Burney
Winifred Gerin; Nelson

Fanny Burney
Judy Simons; Macmillan

Fanny Burney
Sarah Kilpatrick; David Charles

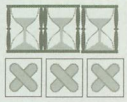
Bear essentials

Teddy bears appeal to all ages. We are given them as babies and our fondness for them stays with us all our lives. So why not delve into our project collection and bring back those memories of childhood friends?



WINNIE THE POOH
A. A. MILNE
WHEN WE WERE VERY YOUNG
A. A. MILNE
Teddy bears show us what love really means – being there when you're needed
TEDDY
SAND BALL

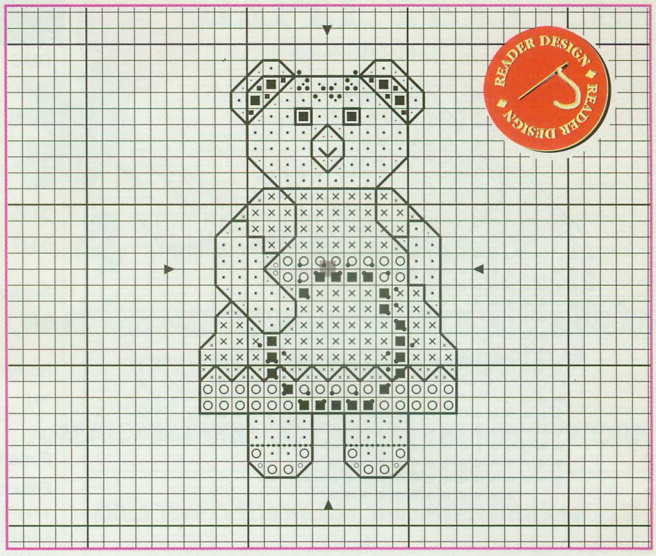
The projects in this section were designed by:
Teddy love sampler – Gail Bussi (designer); Teddy bridesmaid – Jen Harris; Grandma's bear – Karen Bendelow; Panda bear – Naomi Jones; Teddy heart – Ann Methvan, Teddy in hammock – Marion Biddle (readers).



Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

You will need

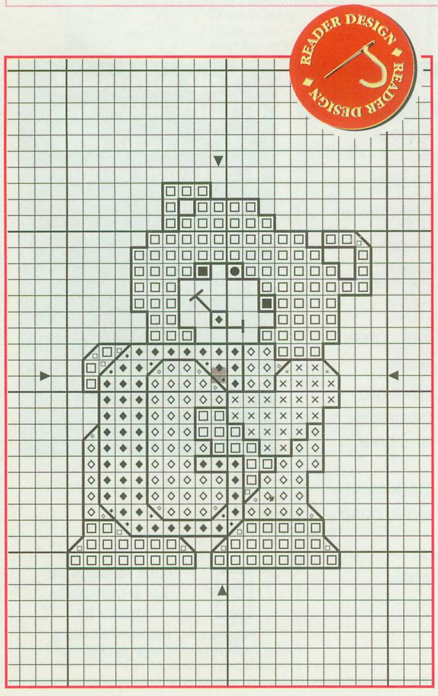
- **18HPI aida** – 11x9in (28x23cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 26
- **Frame** – 9½x8in (24.5x20.5cm), pine
- **Mount board** – with a 6¼x5in (15.75x12.5cm) rectangular opening
- **2oz wadding** – 6¼x5in (15.75x12.5cm)



Teddy love sampler key

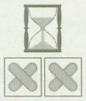
DMC	Anchor	Madeira		Colour
Cross stitch in one strand				
611	889	2107		Gold brown
612	832	2108		Light gold brown
613	956	2109		Very light gold brown
646	8581	1811		Dark grey
648	900	1901		Light grey
676	891	2208		Old gold
754	006	0305		Light peach
926	850	1707		Grey blue
927	848	1708		Light grey blue
930	922	1712		Dark blue
932	920	0710		Light blue
3778	377	0402		Dark peach
3779	868	0403		Light peach
Backstitch all lines in one strand				
646	8581	1811		Dark grey top line of quilt
839	380	1913		Brown bear details
930	922	1712		Dark blue inner border, lettering and bow
3778	377	0402		Dark peach outer borders and hearts

Finished size: Stitch count 110 high x 85 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
14HPI aida 7⅞x6in (20x15cm)
18HPI aida 6⅛x4¾in (15.5x12cm)

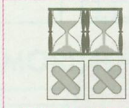


You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 5x4in (12.5x10cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Flexi-hoop** – 4x3in (10x7.5cm) red, oval



Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.



Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 6x4in (15x10cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Card** – with a 4x3in (10x7.5cm) oval opening, Roses, Honeysuckle and Forget-me-nots (DMC)
- **2oz wadding** – 4x3in (10x7.5cm)

Teddy bridesmaid key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira		Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
680	901	2210		Light brown
898	359	2006		Dark brown
3607	087	0706		Dark pink
3609	085	0709		Pink
Backstitch all lines in one strand				
898	359	2006		Dark brown
3607	087	0706		Dark pink shoes

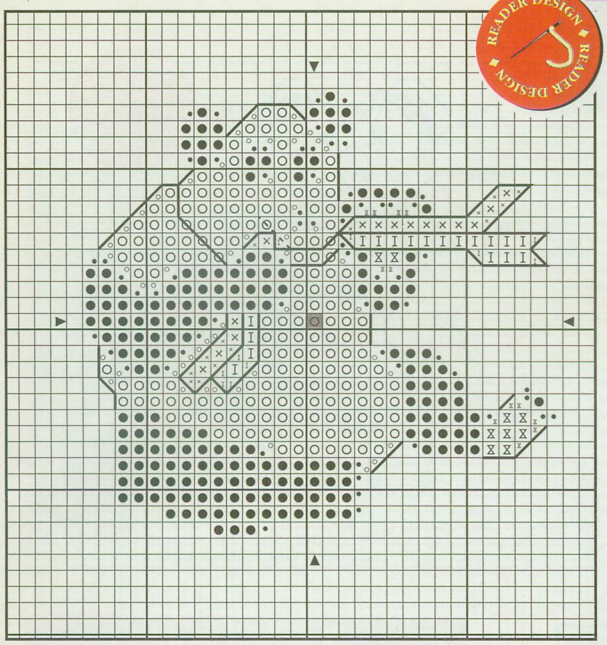
French knots in one strand are worked randomly using oddments of thread for the headress and floral ring

Finished size: Stitch count 26 high x 16 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2½x1⅜in (6.5x3.5cm)
14HPI aida 1⅞x1⅛in (4.75x2.75cm)
18HPI aida 1½x7/8in (3.75x0.22cm)

Grandma's bear key

Anchor	DMC	Madeira		Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
046	666	0210		Red
146	798	1004		Medium blue
204	954	1211		Light green
352	300	2304		Medium brown
458	3325	1003		Light blue
943	437	1910		Light brown
Backstitch all lines in one strand				
310	403	black		Black

Finished size: Stitch count 24 high x 19 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2⅛x1¾in (5.5x4.5cm)
14HPI aida 1¾x1⅜in (4.5x3.5cm)
18HPI aida 1⅜x1in (3.5x2.5cm)



Panda bear key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
white	002	white	White
310	403	black	Black
437	362	1910	Beige
3345	268	1406	Dark green
3347	266	1408	Light green
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
310	403	black	Black
Backstitch all lines in two strands			
310	403	black	Black

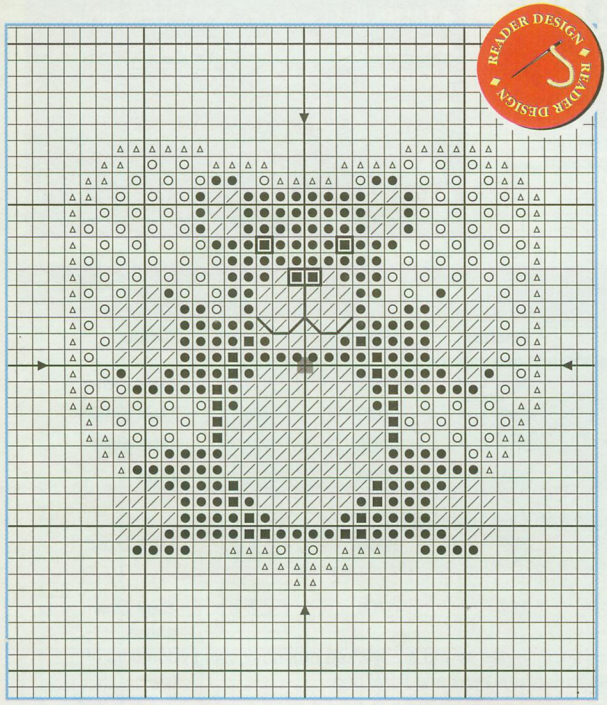
Finished size: Stitch count 28 high x 30 wide

Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2½x2¾in (6.5x7cm)
14HPI aida 2x2⅛in (5x5.5cm)
18HPI aida 1½x2⅝in (3.75x6.75cm)

You will need

- **14HPI aida –** 3½x4in (9x10cm), pale blue
- **Stranded cotton –** as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle –** size 24
- **Paper weight –** heart-shaped, glass, Framecraft

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.



Teddy heart key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
422	373	2103	Gold
746	386	0101	Light ecru
761	036	0813	Pink
898	359	2006	Dark brown
920	339	0401	Medium brown
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
310	403	black	Black

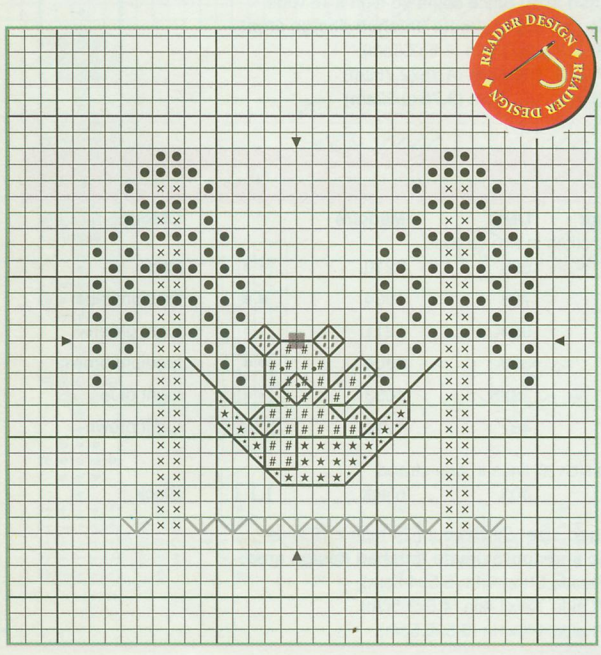
Finished size: Stitch count 28 high x 30 wide

Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2½x2¾in (6.5x7cm)
14HPI aida 2x2⅛in (5x5.5cm)
18HPI aida 1½x1⅝in (3.75x4cm)

You will need

- **18HPI aida –** 3½x3½in (9x9cm), pale blue
- **Stranded cotton –** as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle –** size 26
- **Gold Box –** 3in (7.5cm) circular, Framecraft
- **2oz wadding –** 3x3in (7.5x7.5cm)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.



Hammock bear key

Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
307	783	2212	Orange
373	422	2103	Light brown
889	370	2106	Brown
924	730	1614	Dark green
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
203	564	1211	Light green grass
401	413	1809	Dark grey hammock and bear
French knots in one strand			
401	413	1809	Dark grey eyes, nose

Finished size: Stitch count 24 high x 28 wide

Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2¼x2½in (5.75x6.5cm)
14HPI aida 1¾x2in (4.5x5cm)
18HPI aida 1⅜x1⅝in (3.5x4cm)

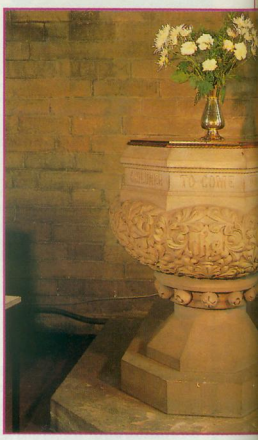
You will need

- **14HPI aida –** 3x3in (7.5x7.5cm), white
- **Stranded cotton –** as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle –** size 24
- **Frame –** 2½in (6.5cm) round, gold effect
- **2 oz wadding –** 2½ x2½in (6.5x6.5cm)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

Teamwork

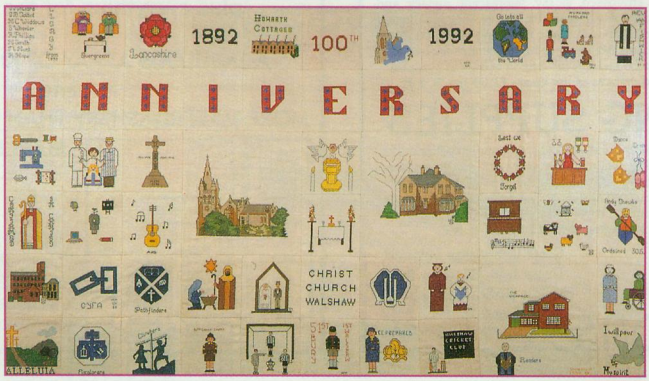
To mark the centenary of their church, the people of Walshaw, Lancashire decided to stitch a banner in cross stitch showing local people and places. As Lynda Burgess discovered, when she went to visit some of the banner stitchers, it was a wonderful way to get everyone involved in the centenary



Centenary events were organised throughout the year. In August there was a flower festival.

It's refreshing to find the community spirit thriving in a small Lancashire village. For the people of Walshaw, near Bury, 1992 will always be a landmark year in the history of their village because this was when everyone joined together to celebrate their church's centenary in a very original way.

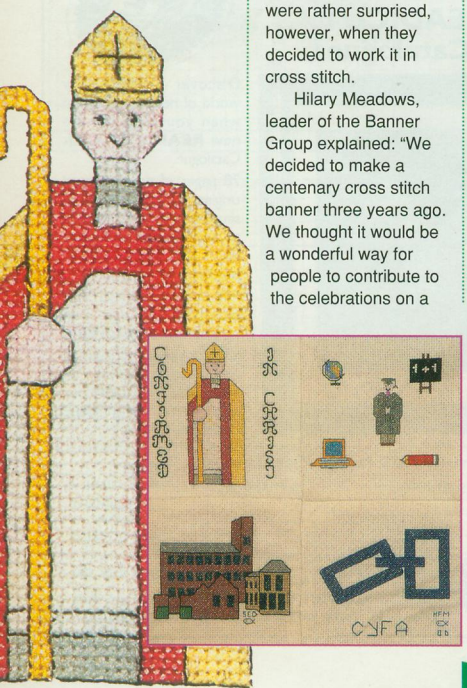
The Walshaw Banner Group announced that it would make a special banner for the occasion. They were famous for their spectacular appliquéd church banners. People were rather surprised, however, when they decided to work it in cross stitch.



The finished banner (above) had 66 cross stitched squares and now hangs in pride of place in the Christ Church, Walshaw.

Hilary Meadows, leader of the Banner Group explained: "We decided to make a centenary cross stitch banner three years ago. We thought it would be a wonderful way for people to contribute to the celebrations on a lovely keepsake everyone could admire." "And it'll still be around in another hundred years' time", added Shirley Morris, another keen stitcher.

Four of the banner stitchers: (above, from left) Helen Brien; Shirley Morris; Sylvia Davies and Nellie Dewie.



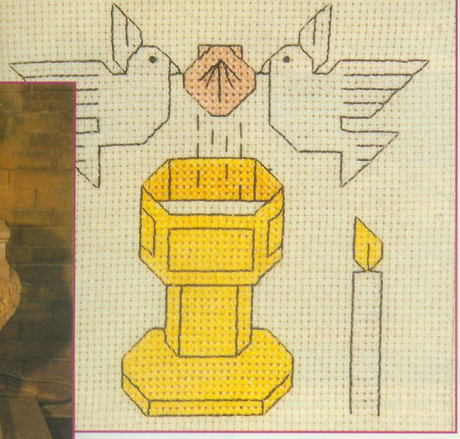
The banner showed people and places from the village (left).

When Mrs Meadows first suggested the idea to the group it was enthusiastically received, even though only a few of the members had done any cross stitch before. Plenty of them were willing to try the new embroidery stitch at the Monday evening meetings ("we did have one man have a go", said Nellie Dewey).

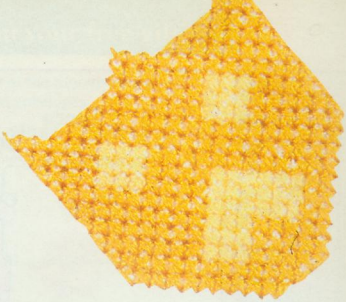
Getting the hang of it

Nellie didn't think she would get the hang of cross stitch: "I've done tapestry and embroidery, but never cross stitch", she said. "Once you start, though, you soon build up the confidence to try something more ambitious. It was really exciting for the people that come to church, because they were stitching something they were really interested in, something dear to their hearts."

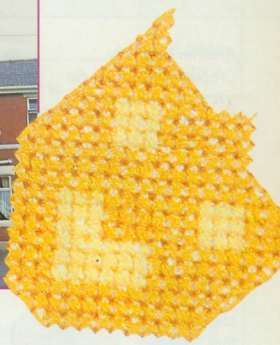
It was several months before people could make their first cross stitches. First, the group had to design the squares. They wanted to show everyday life in their village on the



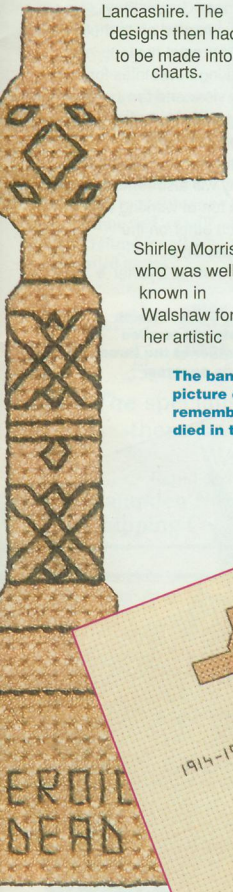
The design for the church font (above) included a charming message of peace and goodwill.



Local dance and drama clubs were represented – as well as another local, the White Horse Inn (above).



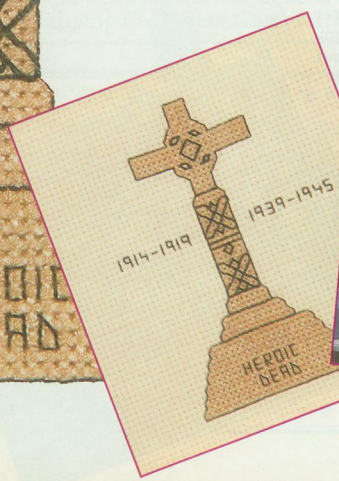
banner – local shopkeepers, clubs and children's groups as well as the church itself. There's even the rose of Lancashire. The designs then had to be made into charts.

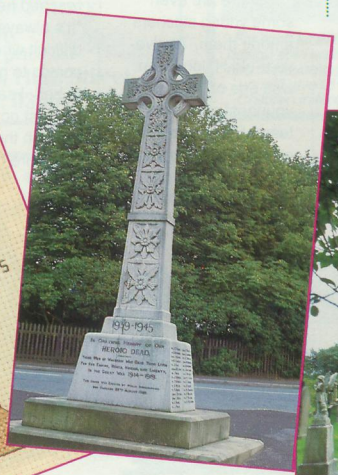


Shirley Morris, who was well known in Walshaw for her artistic flair, was the natural candidate for the job: "I spent quite a long time charting the designs", she said. "When I wanted to colour them, I blended the silks against a picture to create the right colours." The finished designs are highly effective. So far the hard work had paid off.

Next, each of the 66 six-inch squares was packed up with the design, threads and instructions for the stitcher who would be working on it. Over 30 volunteers had been recruited from all corners of the village: the Christ Church, Walshaw Centennial Banner had really begun.

The banner looked to the past with a picture of the War Memorial (below) remembering all the villagers who died in the two World Wars.





Did you know?

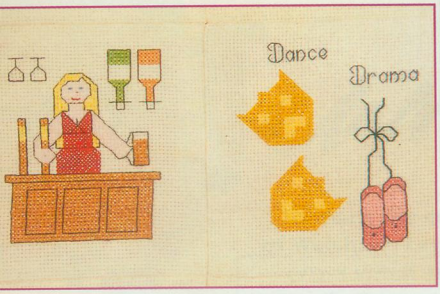
- **The oldest working font in the world is found in the Chapel of St John the Baptist, Domremy, France where Joan of Arc was baptised in 1412.**
- **The highest spire in Britain is that of Salisbury Cathedral. It measures just over 400 ft (120m).**

Helping each other

It brought the whole village together. Any reservations at the start by inexperienced stitchers were soon quelled as everybody got into the spirit of it. "My excuse for never having cross stitched before was that although I had been interested, nobody had ever started me off", said Sylvia Davies.

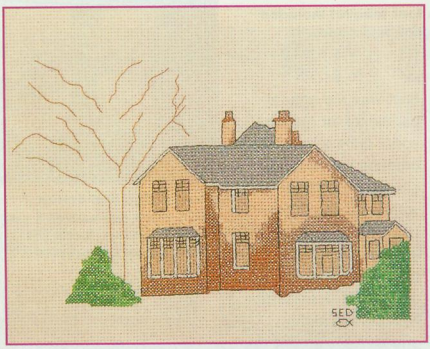
Working together gave people lots of encouragement and made sure they enjoyed themselves at the same time: "we all got together and helped each other through. There was a lot of camaraderie", said Nellie.

Despite her lack of experience, Sylvia stitched the two vicarages on the three larger panels of the banner, as well as several small squares. Shirley stitched the church itself on the other large panel.



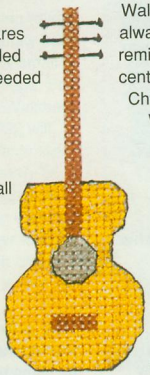
The barmaid of the White Horse was shown behind her pumps (left).

There were three large squares on the banner. The vicarage (above right and below) appeared on one of them.



Another lady, Lily Cropper, stitched quite a few of the squares.

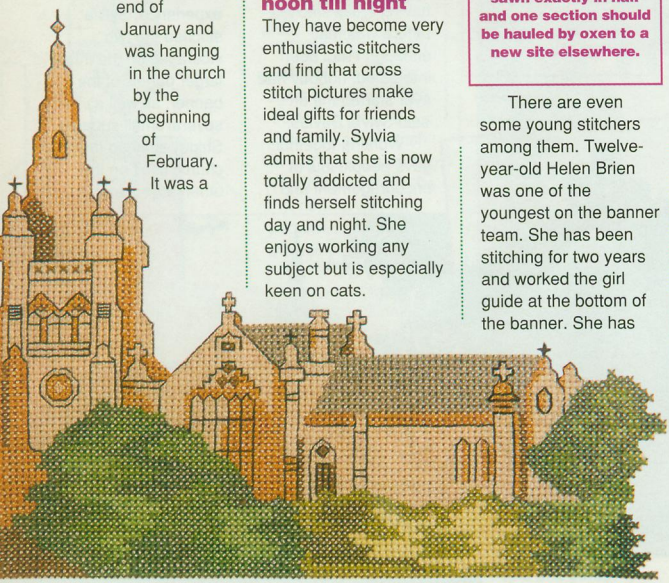
At the end of last year all the stitched squares had to be called back in. "It needed some co-ordinating to get back the finished pieces after all that time, I can tell you", said Shirley. The banner was meant to go on display at the beginning of 1992. After a lot more hard work and good will from everyone it was finally finished at the end of January and was hanging in the church by the beginning of February. It was a tremendous achievement for the Ladies' Banner Group and the village of Walshaw and will always be a poignant reminder of the centennial year of Christ Church, Walshaw.



Other events were organised for the centenary including a flower festival, a concert and several fêtes. Sylvia, Shirley, Lily and all the other banner stitchers seem to have enjoyed themselves. It even looks as if a dozen of them will pick up the aida and carry on.

Stitching from noon till night

They have become very enthusiastic stitchers and find that cross stitch pictures make ideal gifts for friends and family. Sylvia admits that she is now totally addicted and finds herself stitching day and night. She enjoys working any subject but is especially keen on cats.



There are even some young stitchers among them. Twelve-year-old Helen Brien was one of the youngest on the banner team. She has been stitching for two years and worked the girl guide at the bottom of the banner. She has progressed from single motif pictures to more complicated designs. She is currently working on a Noah's ark picture.

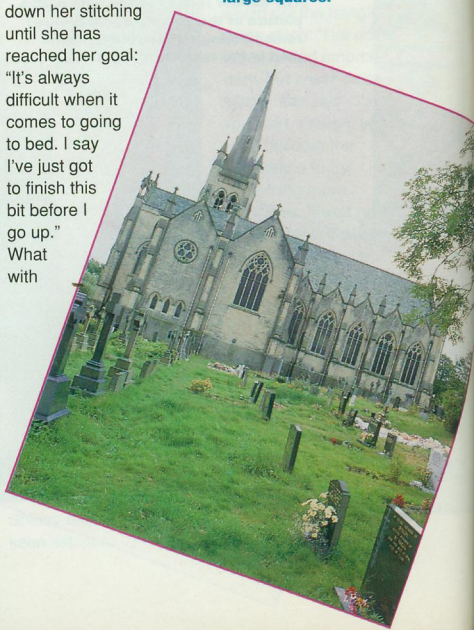
However, Helen has also discovered how much cross stitch can take over your life. She says she sets herself targets and won't put down her stitching until she has reached her goal: "It's always difficult when it comes to going to bed. I say I've just got to finish this bit before I go up." What with stitching, school and homework, she finds it difficult to fit in time for anything else. She has recently encouraged one of her friends to take up cross stitch.

Where next?

As for the Walshaw Banner Group, they have moved on to their next project now - making new stoles for the vicar and the curate. They can justly feel proud of their achievement. No doubt they will also remember the fun of working with each other on the Christ Church Centennial Banner ◆

Did you know?

In 1816 when the congregation of a church in New Bedford USA was split by a quarrel, it was decided that the church building should be sawn exactly in half and one section should be hauled by oxen to a new site elsewhere.



The Christ Church (below) occupied another of the three large squares.

OWL AND CAT PROJECTS

Nightlife

With the nights drawing in and Hallowe'en nearly upon us, we look forward to warm winter evenings by the fireside. Outside, the real rulers of the night – the owl and the pussycat – take over. So why not draw up a chair and stitch some of our wise olds owls and clever cats.

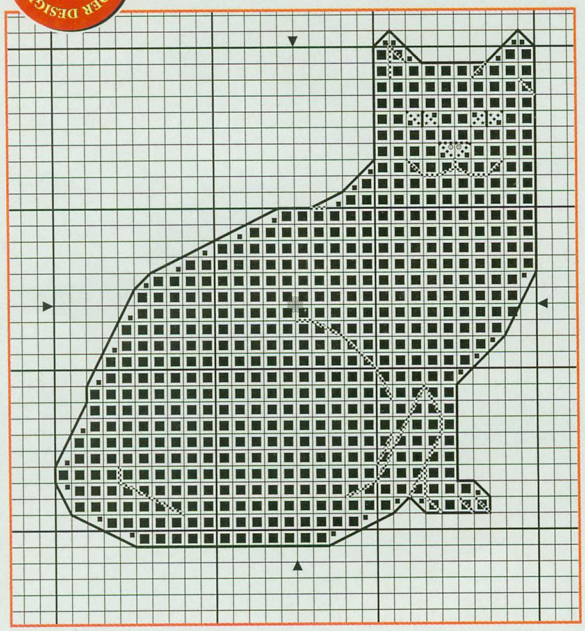
OWL AND CAT PROJECTS

The projects in this section were designed by:
Big owl – Julie Cook (designer)
Lucky black cat – Mrs F France; Owl in moon – Kerry Allen; Black and grey cat – Mrs Collis Smith; Black and white cat – Janet Skerritt; Red owl – Mrs H Rogers; Branch owl – Anne Easton (readers)

Did you know?

Cats generally live about 16 years but there is a case on record of one in Devon living until it was 36 years old.

READER DESIGN



Did you know?

In America three different coloured kittens were born to one cat – one red, one white and one blue.

Did you know?

The owl is the only living creature that can rotate its head through 360 degrees.

Lucky black cat key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira		Colour
Cross stitch in three strands				
310	403	black	■■	Black
907	255	1410	★★	Green
945	868	0305	⊙⊙	Flesh pink
Backstitch all lines in two strands				
white	001	white		White body detail
310	403	black		Black outline
907	255	1410		Green eyes
945	868	0305		Flesh pink nose

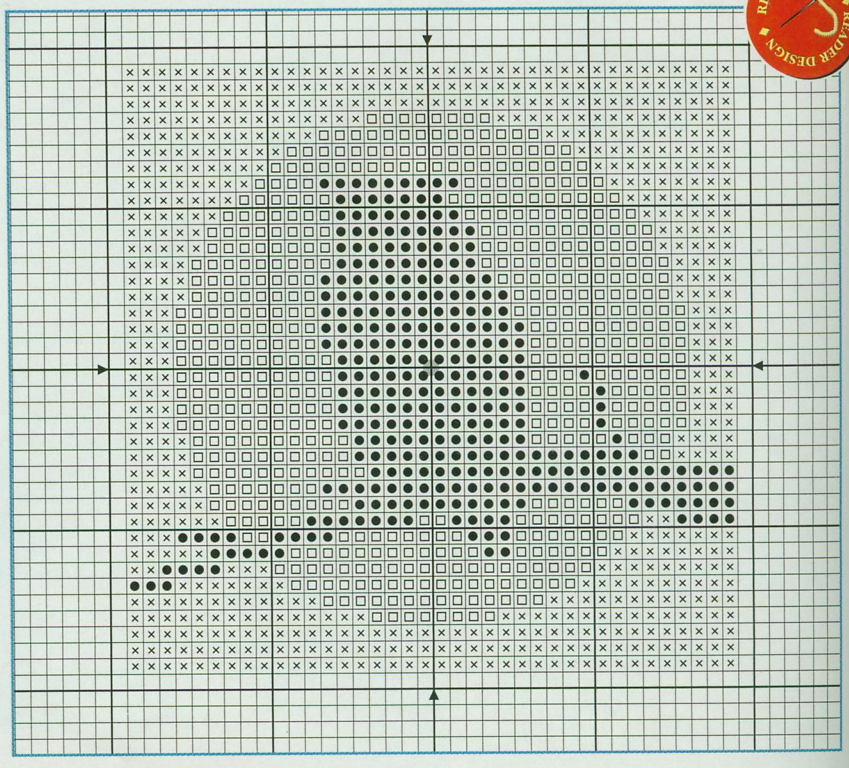
Finished size: Stitch count 32 high x 30 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2⅞x2¾in (7.25x7cm)
14HPI aida 2¼x2⅛in (5.75x5.5cm)
18HPI aida 1¾x1⅝in (4.5x4cm)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 6x4in (15x10cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Card** – poppies and corn (DMC)
- **2oz wadding** – 3¾x3in (9.5x 7.5cm), oval

READER DESIGN



Owl in moon key

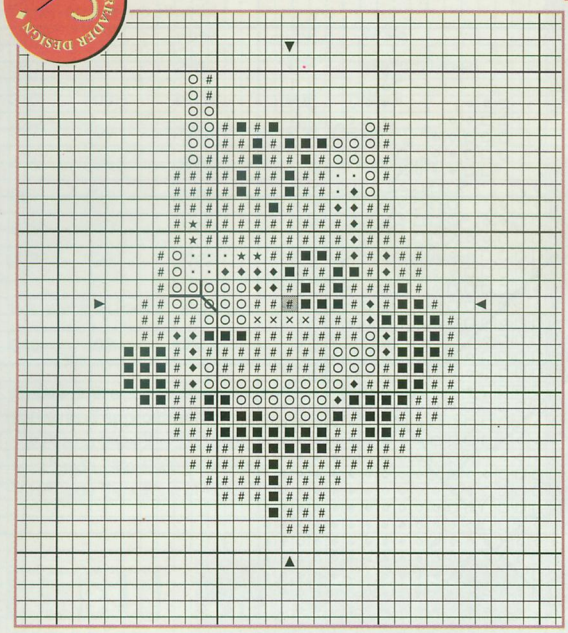
DMC	Anchor	Madeira		Colour
Cross stitch in three strands				
310	403	black	●●	Black
Cross stitch in two strands				
762	397	1804	□□	Light grey
930	922	1712	××	Blue

Finished size: Stitch count 38 high x 38 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 3½x3½in (9x9cm)
14HPI aida 2¾x2¾in (7x7cm)
18HPI aida 2¼x2⅛in (5.5x5.5cm)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 5½x5½in (14x14cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Photoframe** – 4x4in (10x10cm), white and gold
- **2oz wadding** – 3¼x3¼in (8x8cm)



Black and grey cat key

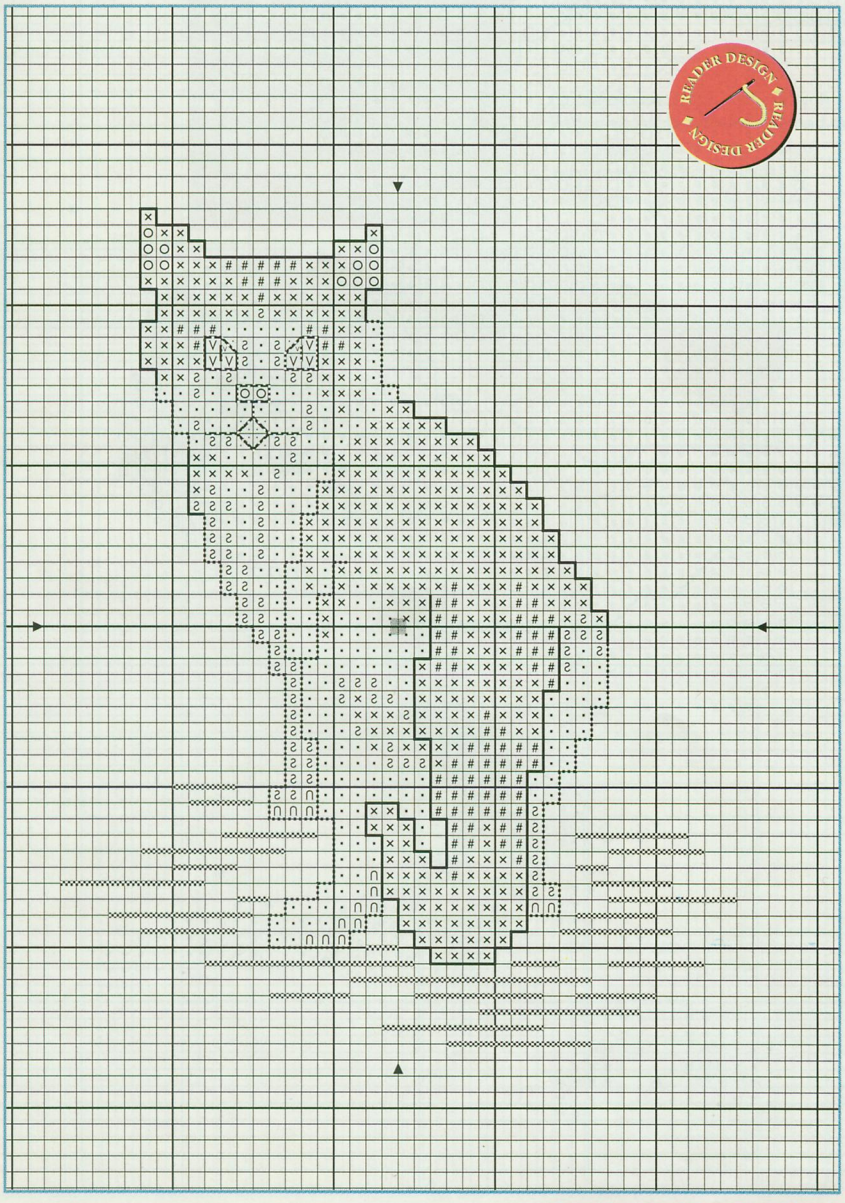
DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
white	001	white	White
318	399	1801	Light grey
798	131	0911	Bright blue
932	920	0710	Blue grey
950	881	2309	Pink
3799	236	1713	Dark grey
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
3799	236	1713	Dark grey

Finished size: Stitch count 29 high x 21 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2⅝x2in (6.75x5cm)
14HPI aida 2x1½in (5x3.75cm)
18HPI aida 1⅝x1¼in (4x3.25cm)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

You will need

- **14HPI aida** - 4x4in (10x10cm), light blue
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Flexi-hoop** – 2½in (6.5cm) round, light blue
- **Felt** – 2½in (6.5cm), round, light blue



Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

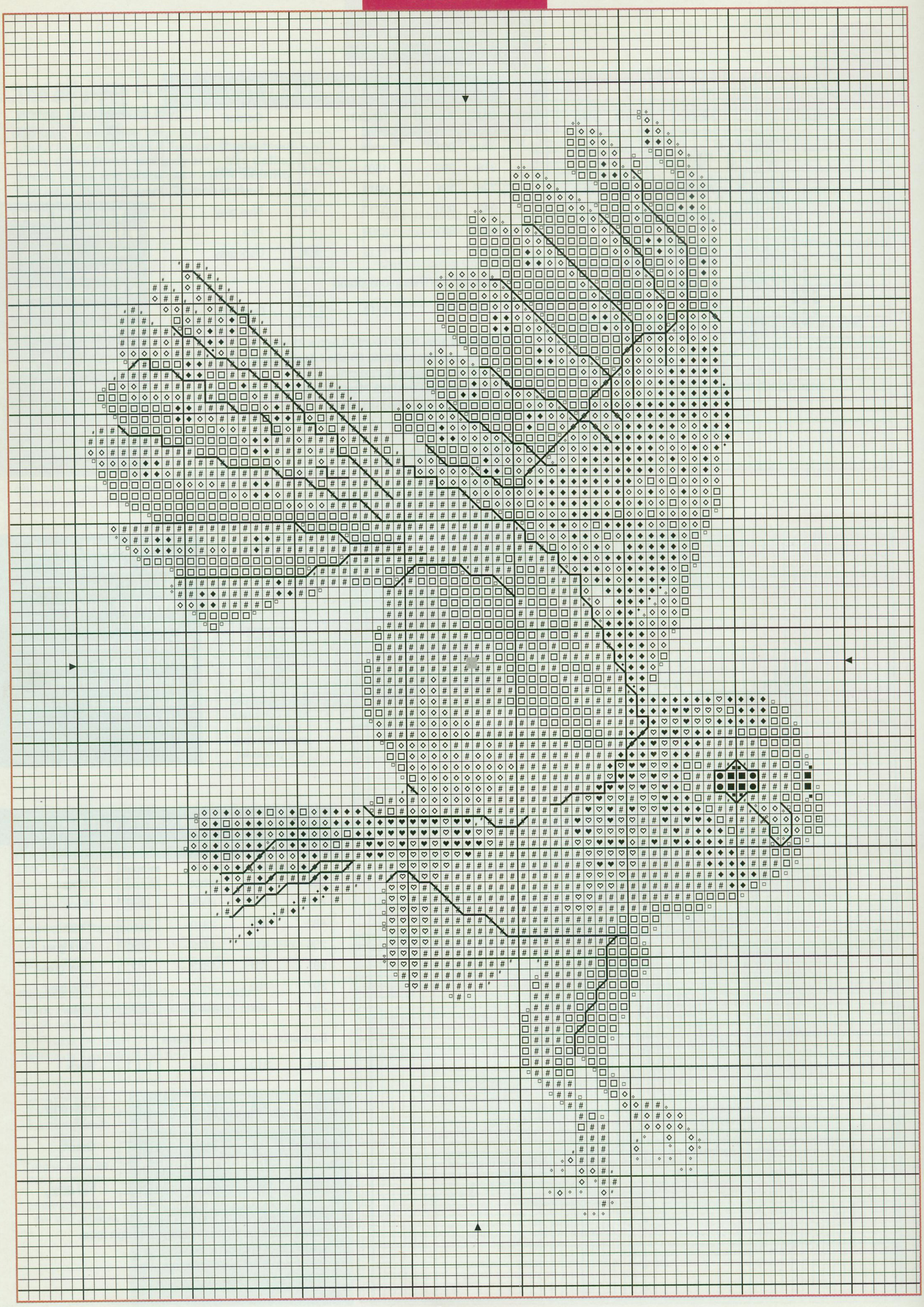
You will need

- **18HPI aida** – 5x4in (12.5x10cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 26
- **Oval frame** – 4¼x3¼in (11x8cm), gold effect
- **2oz wadding** – 4¼x3¼in (11x8cm)

Black and white cat key

Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
002	white	white	White
403	310	black	Black
882	407	2310	Flesh
236	413	1713	Dark grey
281	731	1613	Olive green
397	762	1804	Pale grey
392	3023	1903	Fawn
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
403	310	black	Black
236	413	1713	Dark grey
266	471	1408	Green
8581	646	1811	Mid grey

Finished size: Stitch count 47 high x 42 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 4¼x3⅞in (11x10cm)
14HPI aida 3⅜x3in (8.5x7.5cm)
18HPI aida 2⅝x2⅜in (6.75x6cm)



OWL AND CAT PROJECTS

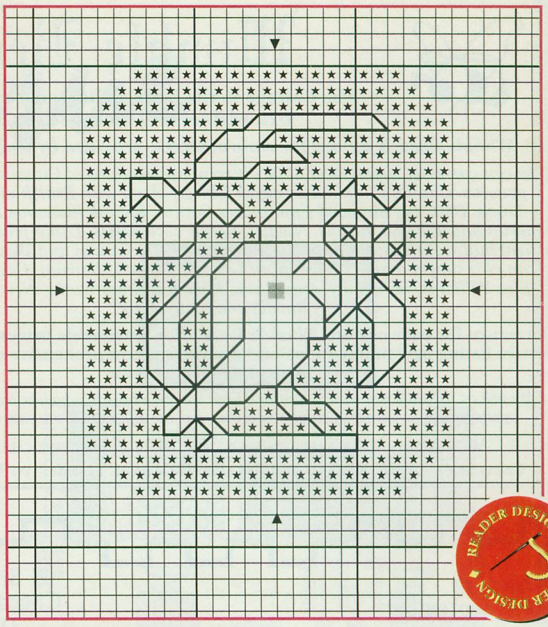
Big owl key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
white	002	white	White
300	357	2304	Medium brown
310	403	black	Black
317	400	1714	Dark grey
415	398	1802	Light grey
951	881	2308	Light brown
3031	360	2006	Deep brown
3776	326	2302	Orange brown
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
310	403	black	Black

Finished size: Stitch count 103 high x 67 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 9⅜x6in (33x15cm)
14HPI aida 7⅜x4¾in (19x12cm)
18HPI aida 5¾x3¾in (14.5x9.5cm)

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 3x3in (7.5x7.5cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Gold effect frame** – 2½x2½in (6.5x6.5cm)
- **2oz wadding** 2¼x2¼in (5.7x5.7cm)



Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

You will need

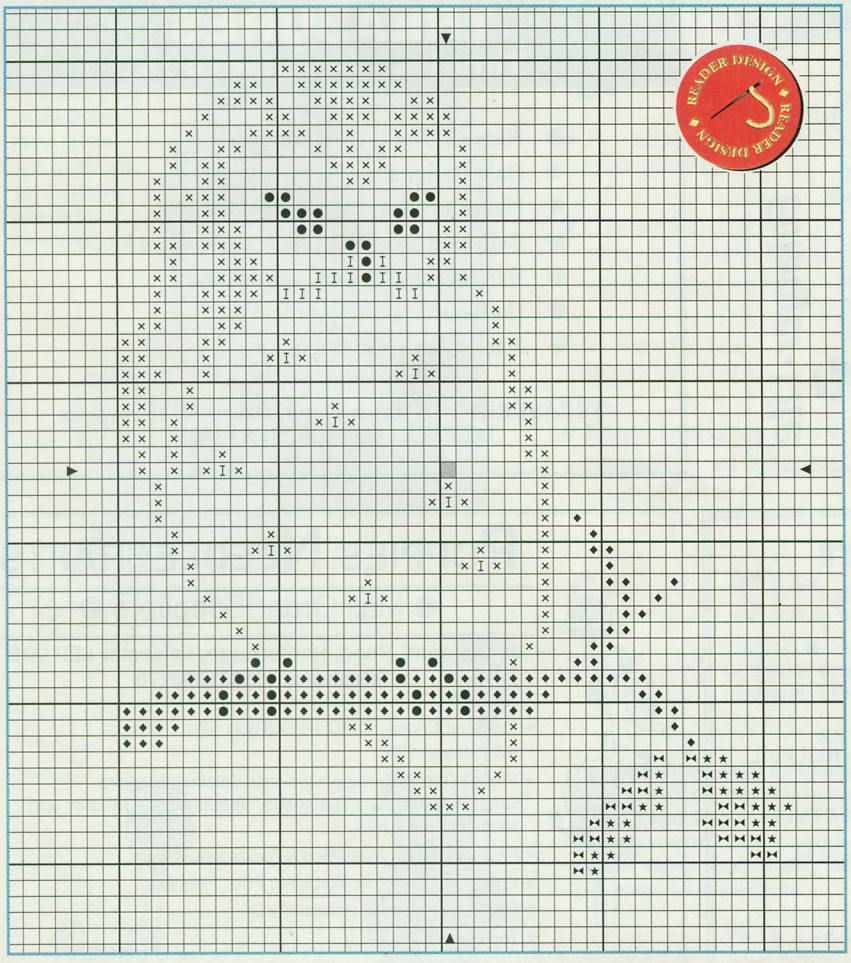
- **14HPI aida** – 13x12in (33x30.5cm), black
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Frame** – 12x10¾in (30.5x27cm), black
- **Mount** – with a 9¼x7¼in (23.75x18.5cm) oval opening, white

Red owl key

Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
9046	817	0202	Red
Backstitch all lines in two strands			
403	310	black	Black

Finished size: Stitch count 27 high x 23 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2½x2⅛in (6.5x5.5cm)
14HPI aida 2x1⅝in (5x4cm)
18HPI aida 1½x1¼in (3.75x3.25cm)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.



Branch owl key

Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
036	761	0813	Light gold
215	368	1310	Medium green
217	561	1205	Dark green
358	433	2008	Brown
381	938	2003	Dark brown
858	524	1511	Moss green

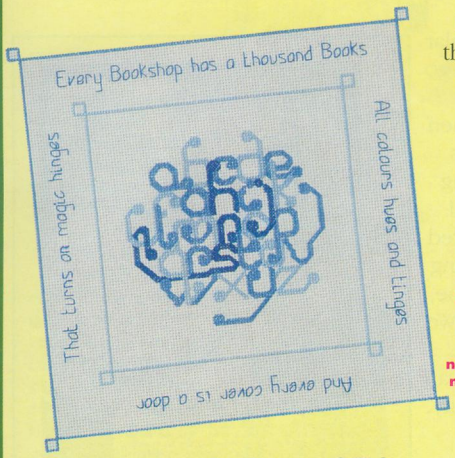
Finished size: Stitch count 51 high x 42 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 4⅝x3¾in (11.75x9.5cm)
14HPI aida 3⅝x3in (9.25x7.5cm)
18HPI aida 2⅞x2⅜in (7.25x6cm)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

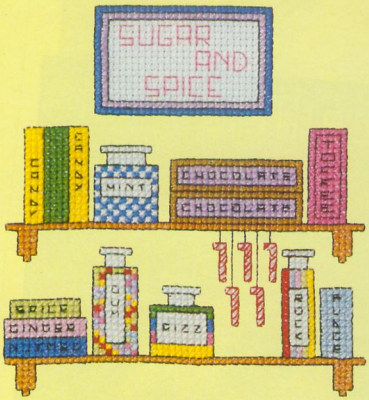
You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 7½x7½in (19.25x19.25cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Frame** – with a 4½x4½in (11.5x11.5cm) opening, decorated wood
- **2oz wadding** 4½x4½in (11.5x11.5cm)

Next issue



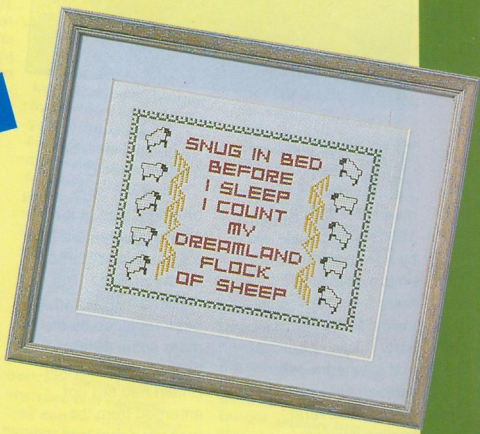
Here are some of the exciting projects and features you will find in the second issue of *Cross Stitcher*.



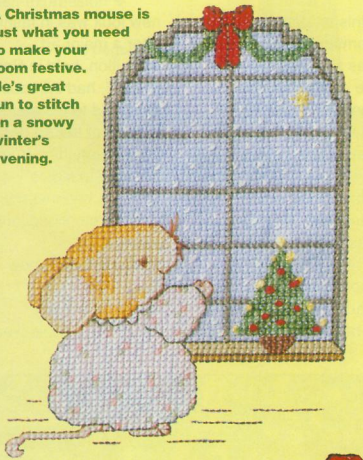
Do you remember those well-stocked sweet shops when you were young, before sweets came from the supermarket? Our nostalgic picture (right) will make your mouth water for sherbet and gobstoppers.

Do you know any bookworms? This subtle design (above) will make a super gift for the keen reader in your family. Or perhaps you can find a place in your sewing room to appreciate the sentiment.

Beat insomnia by stitching yourself to sleep with our delightful sleepytime sheep (below).



A Christmas mouse is just what you need to make your room festive. He's great fun to stitch on a snowy winter's evening.

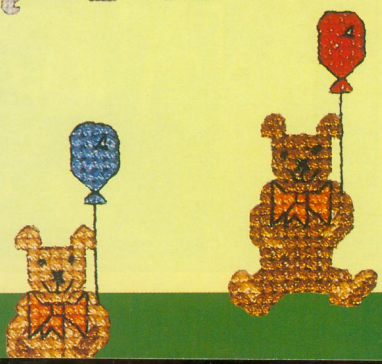


Plus

- **A super Santa cover kit**
- **Chartfinder to track down that special design**
- **2 new star sign charts**
- **Fascinating real-life stitching experiences**

Cross Stitcher...

Packed with great ideas for you to stitch



These teddies with balloons look great on any picture. Make them into a frame for your favourite photograph, or use them individually as greetings card projects.

Issue 2 out 26 November

A STITCH DOWN

Memory Lane

In the first of a regular nostalgia series, we go back in time to November 1934 when Gracie Fields was everybody's darling and this delightful table design appeared in Britain's bestselling needlecraft magazine, the *Needlewoman*. We have updated the project so that you can stitch it yourself today.

The cover of the November 1934 issue of the *Needlewoman* (left) and one of the adverts it carried (right). The magazine cost 6d (2½p today).

When you open a copy of the *Needlewoman* magazine from the 1930s, you are struck by how many different embroidery projects there are. From guest towels to children's party frocks, it seems that stitched motifs were all the rage. Then there are several knitting projects – including one for "lacy wool undies so dainty and warm" – and some fashion accessory crocheting that reminds you of a Hollywood star like Marlene Dietrich.

Readers were probably glad of the chance to create a little elegance and glamour for themselves. The carefree 1920s had been replaced by the more sober 1930s. And by the winter of 1934, Britain had still not emerged from the recession that had been brought on by the 1923 General Strike and the Wall Street crash in 1929.

Inflation was running high and the prime minister, James Ramsey Macdonald, was struggling to get the economy under control. "Martinis and champagne have given way to sherry and beer", wrote the social critic Sir Osbert Lancaster. Everyone was talking politics.

The possibility of another world war had made the 1930s a time of major upheaval. A new look was in fashion after a major art exhibition, held in Paris in 1925, had introduced the world to the startling shapes of the art deco style. Everything from furniture to ladies' fashions had taken on a more streamlined look as a result.

Not knowing how much their money would be worth tomorrow, people were

Music box

- **Favourite singers: Al Bowlly; Bing Crosby; Ruth Etting; Gracie Fields; Tessie O'Shea; Jessie Matthews**
- **Favourite bands: Duke Ellington; Lew Stone and his band; Ray Noble and his band; Henry Hall and the BBC Dance Orchestra**
- **Songs that hit the mark: *All I do is dream of you*; *Love in Bloom*; *Smoke gets in your eyes*; *What can you give a nudist on his birthday?***

HRH the Duke of Kent married Princess Marina in November 1934.

Bing Crosby (left) was top of the pops.

Fashions (left) were long, sleek and elegant.

spending what they had today on the increasing range of mass-produced consumer goods. More people owned cars for the first time – in 1910 only one in 184 Americans had cars; by 1934 it was one in five.

The first housing estates were springing up, making property a very sound investment. London seemed to be spreading relentlessly, engulfing all the little villages in its path.

Among all this change and uncertainty, women probably found traditional embroidery projects, like the family of ducks we have picked out, a welcome opportunity for creative self-expression ◆

Project on page 32 ⇨

In 1934...

- You could buy a new Austin Ascot for £218
- A five-bedroom luxury flat in London's Kensington could be rented for £250 per annum
- A two-bedroom terraced house cost about £300 to buy
- Unemployment stood at just over two million
- HRH the Duke of Kent married Princess Marina of Greece
- The Aga Khan's Felicitation won the Jockey Club cup
- 30mph speed limit was imposed in built-up areas
- A new Rolls Royce Phantom II cost £2,725 to buy

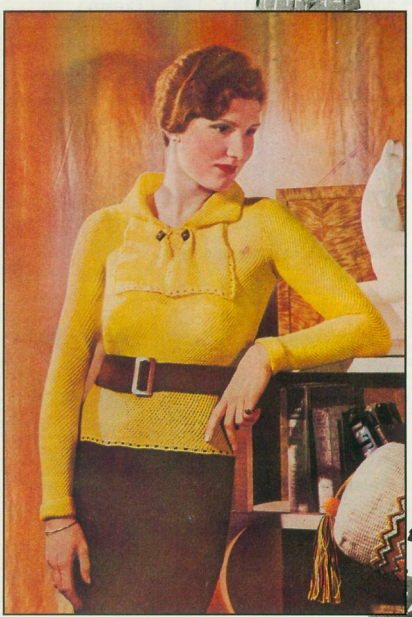
"Green linen is used for this jolly Set, embroidered chiefly in cross stitch in gay colours."

From the Needlewoman, November 1934...

"Mealtime will be a much jollier and more interesting affair on account of this quaint table mat and matching feeder. The tiny tot who is 'difficult' with her food will find her attention distracted by the bevy of fluffy yellow ducklings following their anxious mother duck on their first adventurous promenade, and she will not notice that she is cheerfully eating what at other times she probably refuses. The mat and feeder are both made to ample proportions to give every possible protection and since both the thread and linen are fast colours, they can be washed any number of times.

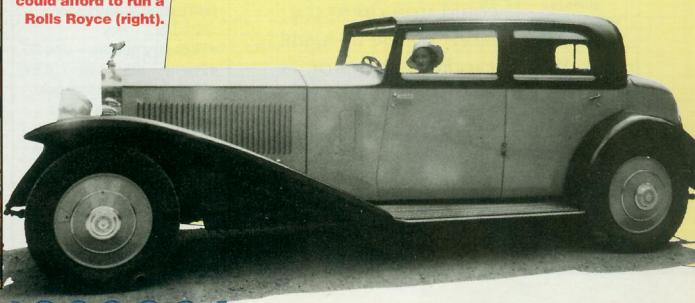
The embroidery is worked almost entirely in cross stitch and is cleverly shaded to give the effect of feathers and 'fluff'. The method of finishing off the edges is particularly neat and the colour scheme is such that almost any shade could be substituted for the background, to match a special nursery or dining room decoration.

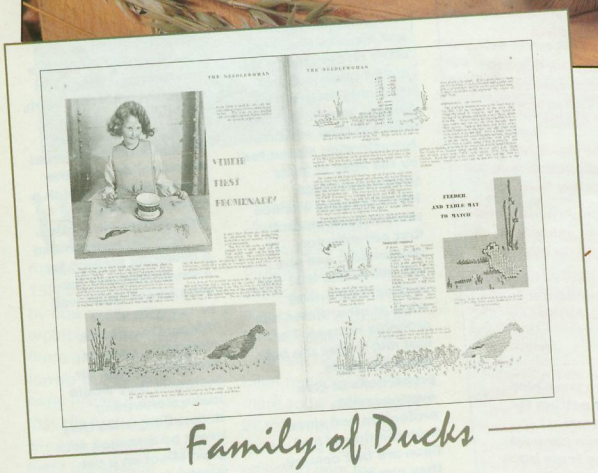
This Set would make a delightful present for a small child and the little motifs could well be used for other things. On a child's nightdress case or nursery cushion, for instance, they would make a charming decoration; while they might be arranged with good effect on a cot spread, laundry bag, play pinafore or nursery curtains."



Readers were also given a pattern for an informal afternoon garment with the "new jabot neckline" (left).

Sign of the times: only the very rich could afford to run a Rolls Royce (right).





Family of Ducks

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

Readers who wanted to work this project in 1934 had to send off 5d (2p) for a transfer they could iron on to the fabric to use as a stitch guide. Without today's charts or standard weave fabric, their work was much less even. We have tried to match the Anchor colours as far as possible. And just for fun, we have turned round the last duckling as there's always a black sheep in the family or, in this case, a cream duck.

You will need

- **28HPI evenweave fabric** – 8x13in (20.5x33cm), magnolia (see our *Country Collection*, page 75)
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 26
- **Frame** – 6½x11¼in (16.5x 28.5cm), dark wood, gold
- **Mount** – double, with a 3½x 8½in (9x21.5cm) window, green and brown

Our model was cross stitched over one thread of evenweave fabric. To make a larger picture stitch over two threads or use 14HPI aida fabric.

Family of ducks key

Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in one strand			
140	3755	1003	Light blue
293	727	0110	Yellow
300	745	0111	Cream
301	744	0110	Light yellow
307	783	2212	Orange
358	433	2007	Dark brown
368	437	1910	Very light brown
369	435	2010	Light brown
371	434	2008	Brown
401	844	1809	Dark grey
403	310	black	Black
885	739	1909	Sand
Backstitch lines in one strand			
307	783	2212	Orange ducklings' feet
261	989	1310	Light green grass
358	433	2007	Dark brown ducks' outline
Backstitch lines in two strands			
263	935	1505	Dark green

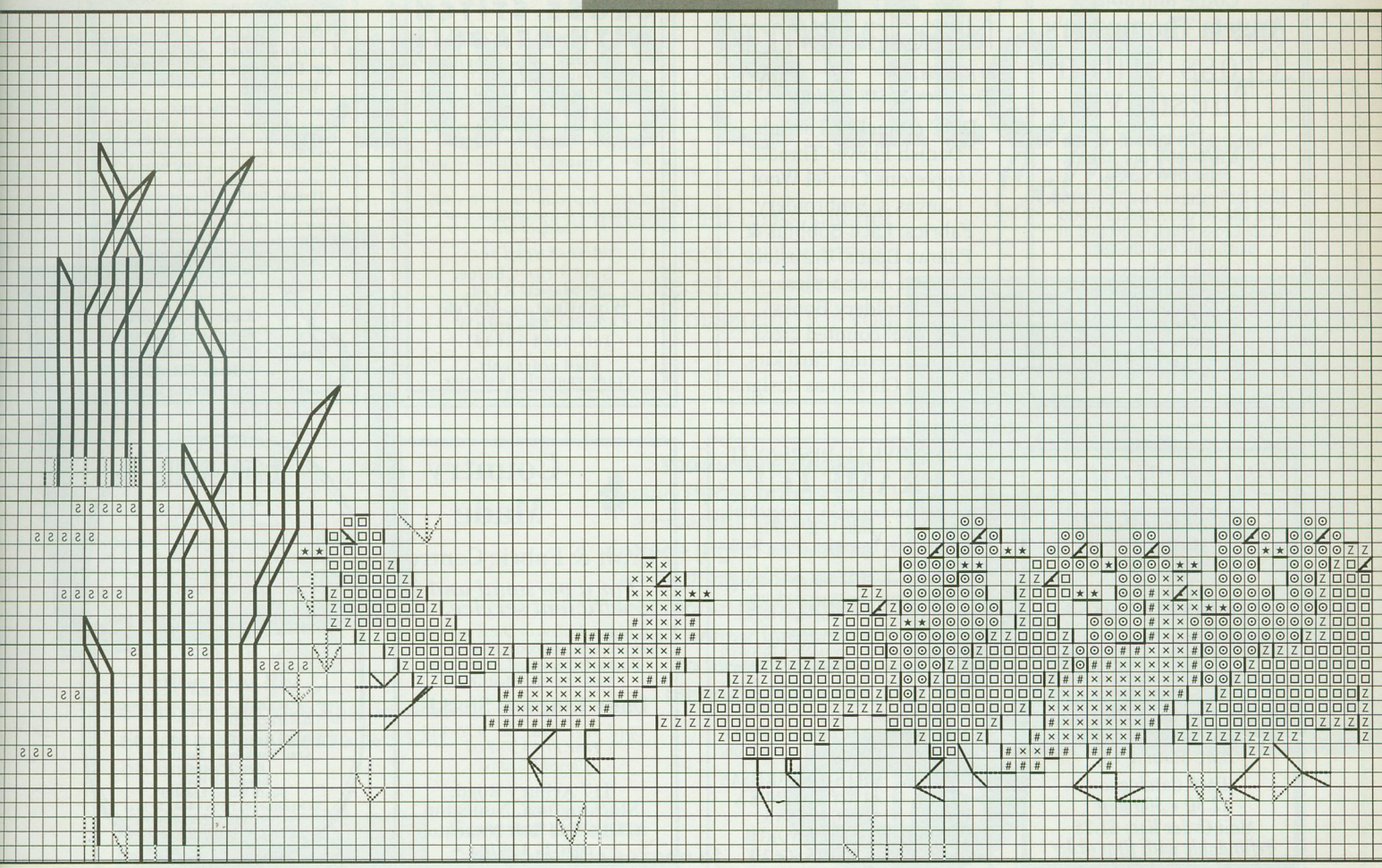
Finished size: Stitch count 56 high x 185 wide

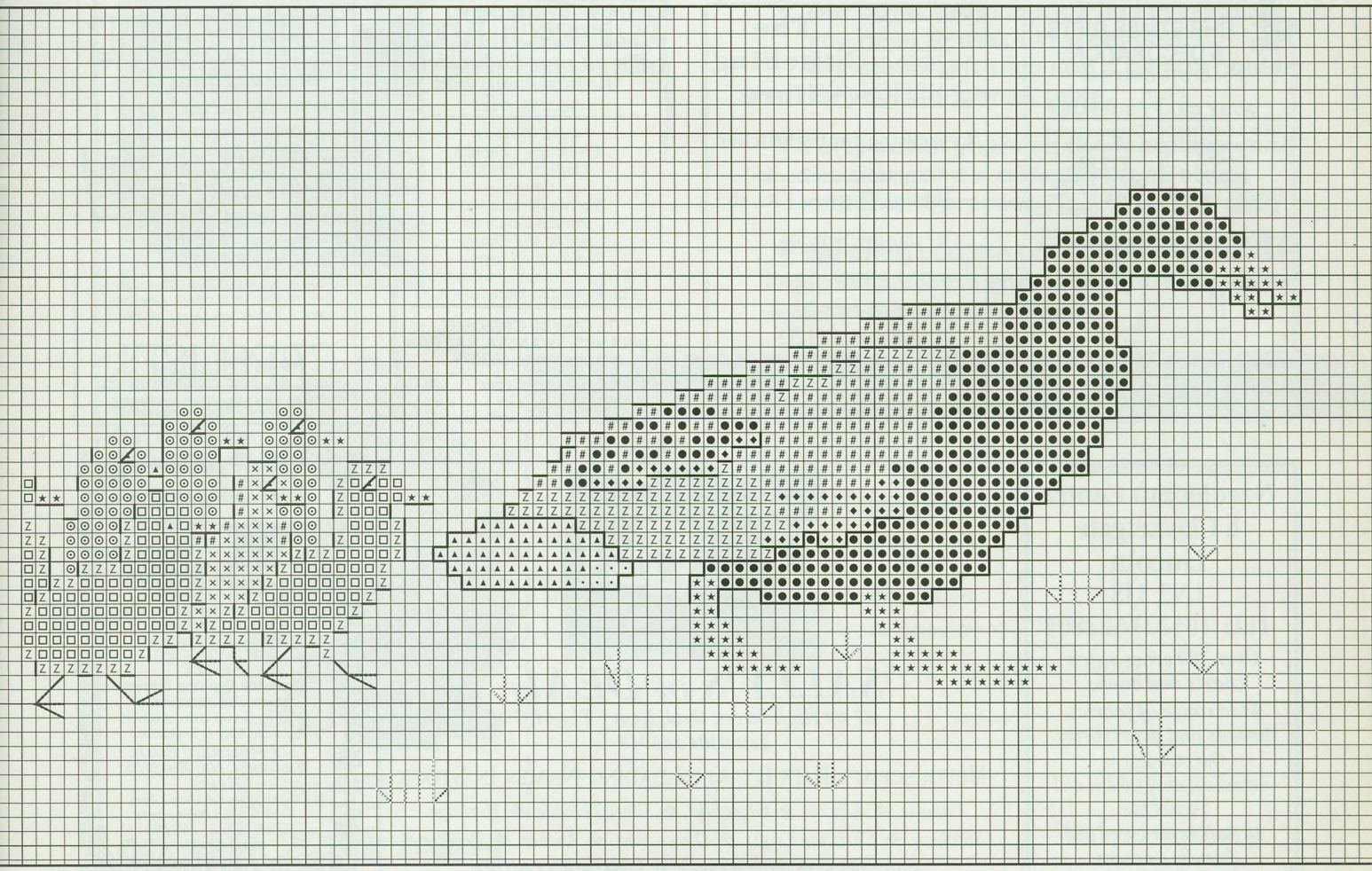
Fabric and approximate finished design area:

14HPI 4x13⅛in (10x33.5cm)

18HPI 3⅛x10⅛in (7.75x25.75cm)

28HPI 2x6⅝in (5x16.75cm)

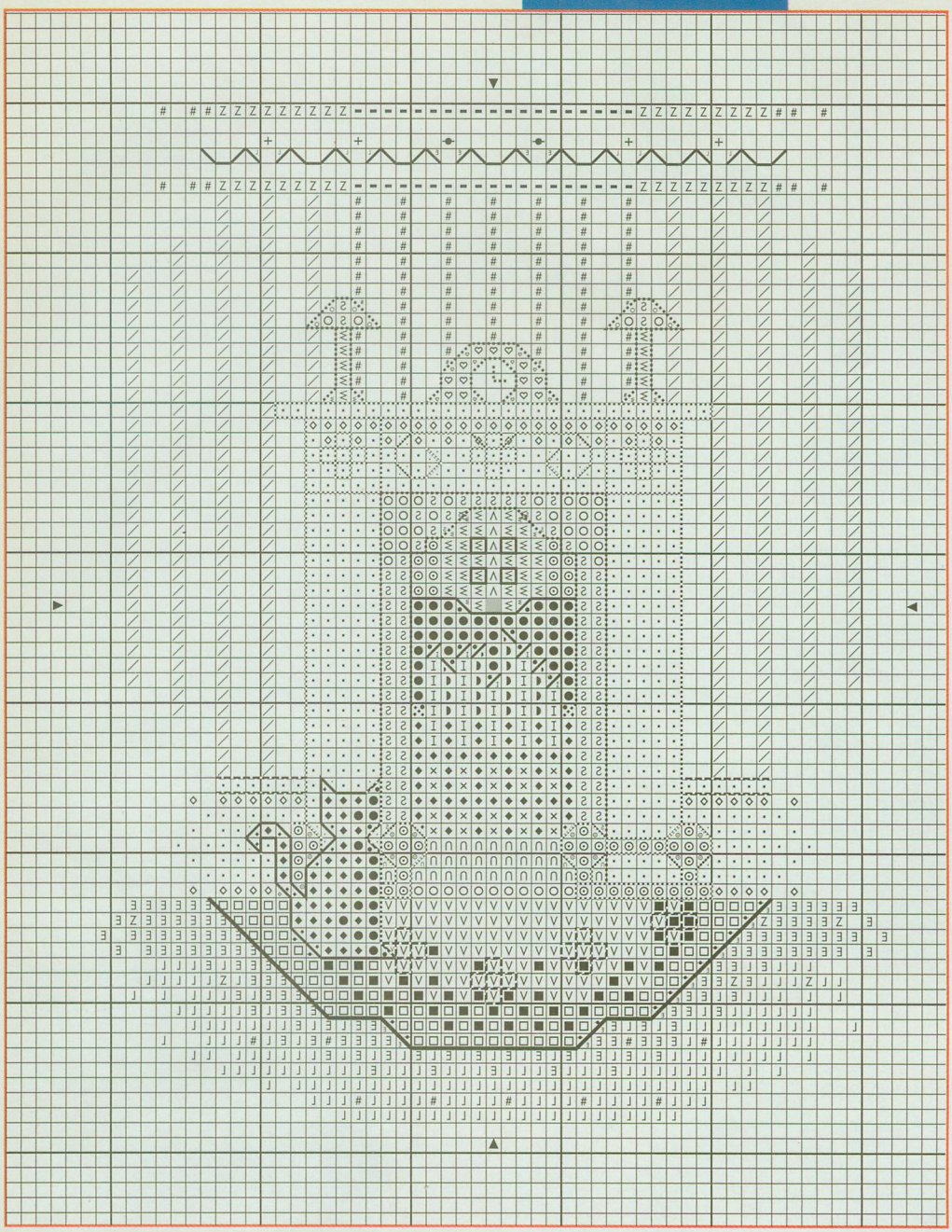




TEMPUS FUGIT
BRITISH
THE ILLUSTRATED
LONDON
GAY

Perfect timing

"What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare?" W H Davies' words remind us that too much of our life is spent rushing around ignoring life's charms. So take time to stitch one of our clock projects – it will be a constant reminder to slow down.



You will need

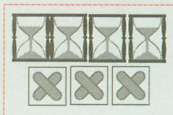
- **22HPI evenweave fabric** – 11x9in (28x23cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Frame** – 9½x8in (24.5x20.5cm), dark wood
- **Mount** – with a 6½x5in (16.5x12.5cm) rectangular opening
- **Wadding** – 6½x5in (16.5x12.5cm), 2oz

How to work the main fireplace design

1. The cross stitch is worked in three strands of cotton over two threads of fabric.
2. Work the backstitch in one strand of thread in the colours listed in the key.

How to make the fringe

1. Work each of the tassels on the edge of the rug separately.
2. Starting at the outside corner of the rug, take the needle and thread from the front to the back of your stitching, leaving a 1in (2.5cm) tail of stranded cotton on the right side.
3. Bring the needle back to the front of your work alongside the tail and tie a knot.
4. Pass the needle to the back of the work before securing the thread. The carpet fringe can then be trimmed to the length required.



Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

Clock on mantelpiece key

Cross stitch in three strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
white	002	white	White
ecru	387	ecru	Ecru
221	020	0811	Burgundy
223	894	0813	Med light pink
224	893	0812	Light pink
225	892	0501	Very light pink
368	215	1310	Light green
369	202	1309	Mint green
469	268	1504	Dark green
470	266	1502	Green
471	266	1408	Avocado green
646	8581	1811	Medium grey
677	886	2205	Cream
722	323	0307	Light orange
738	361	2012	Light brown
739	885	1909	Light sandstone
742	303	0114	Citrus orange
793	121	0906	Medium blue
794	120	0909	Light blue
832	907	2202	Dark orange
833	907	1610	Brown green
844	401	1809	Very dark grey
869	944	2106	Olive
970	324	0204	Orange
3072	847	1709	Grey mist

Backstitch all lines in one strand

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
221	020	0811	Burgundy crosses on rug
310	403	black	Black of cat

Backstitch all lines in one strand

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
646	8581	1811	Medium grey detail, outline on mantelpiece
869	944	2106	Olive outline on lamps, clock, fireplace
970	324	0204	Orange front of cat and fender

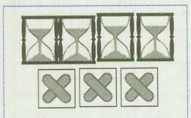
Finished size: Stitch count 68 high x 53 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 6⅛x4⅛in (15.25X12.25cm)
14HPI aida 4⅞x3¾in (12.25X9.5cm)
18HPI aida 3¾x2⅞in (9.5X7.25cm)

The projects in this section were designed by:

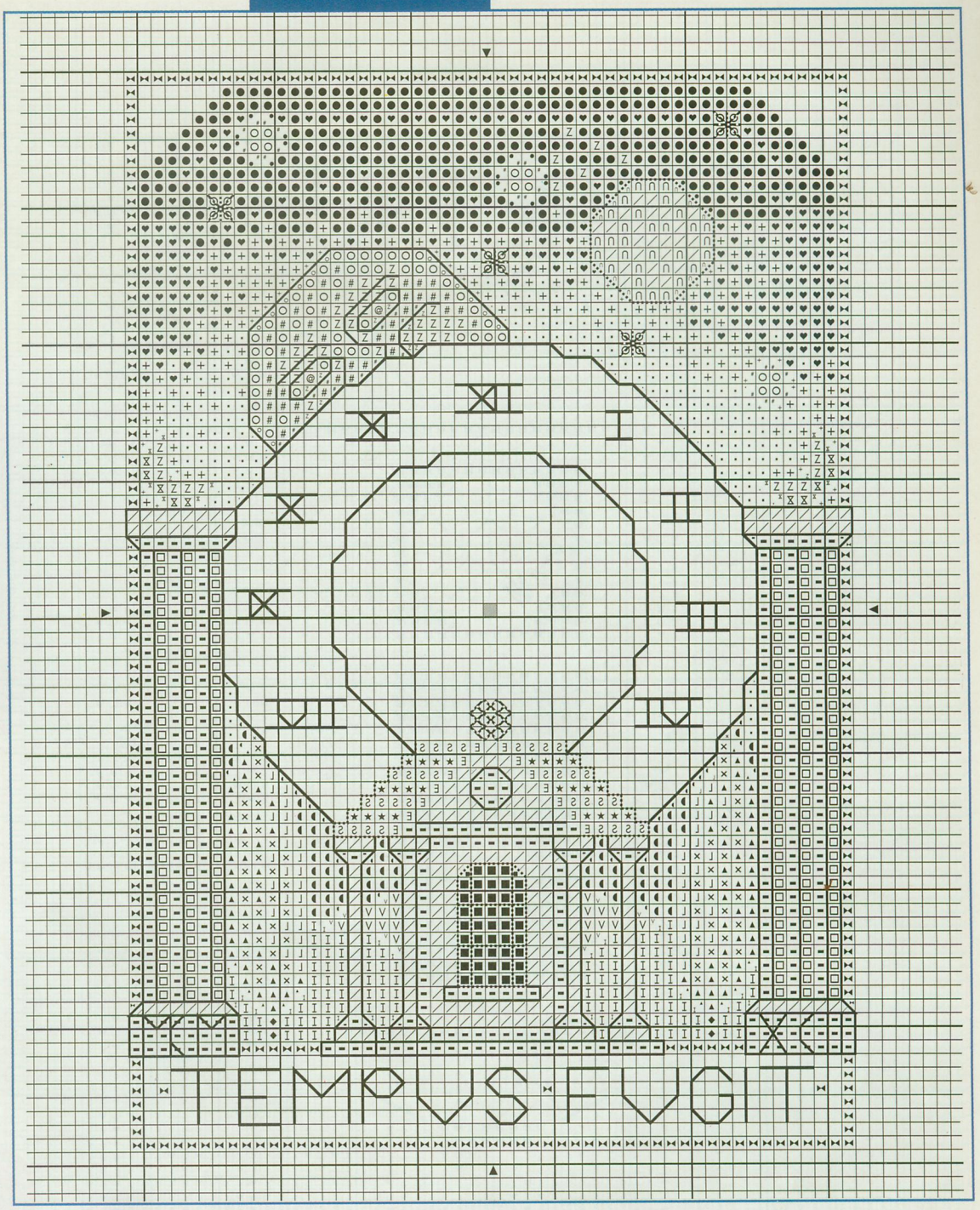
Clock on mantelpiece; Tempus-fugit – Sue Cook (designer)
Family clock – Tracy Medway (reader)
Wake up – Linda Blakey (reader)

You will need

- **14HPI damask aida** – 11x9in (28x23cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Mantel clock** – see page 68 for our special offers



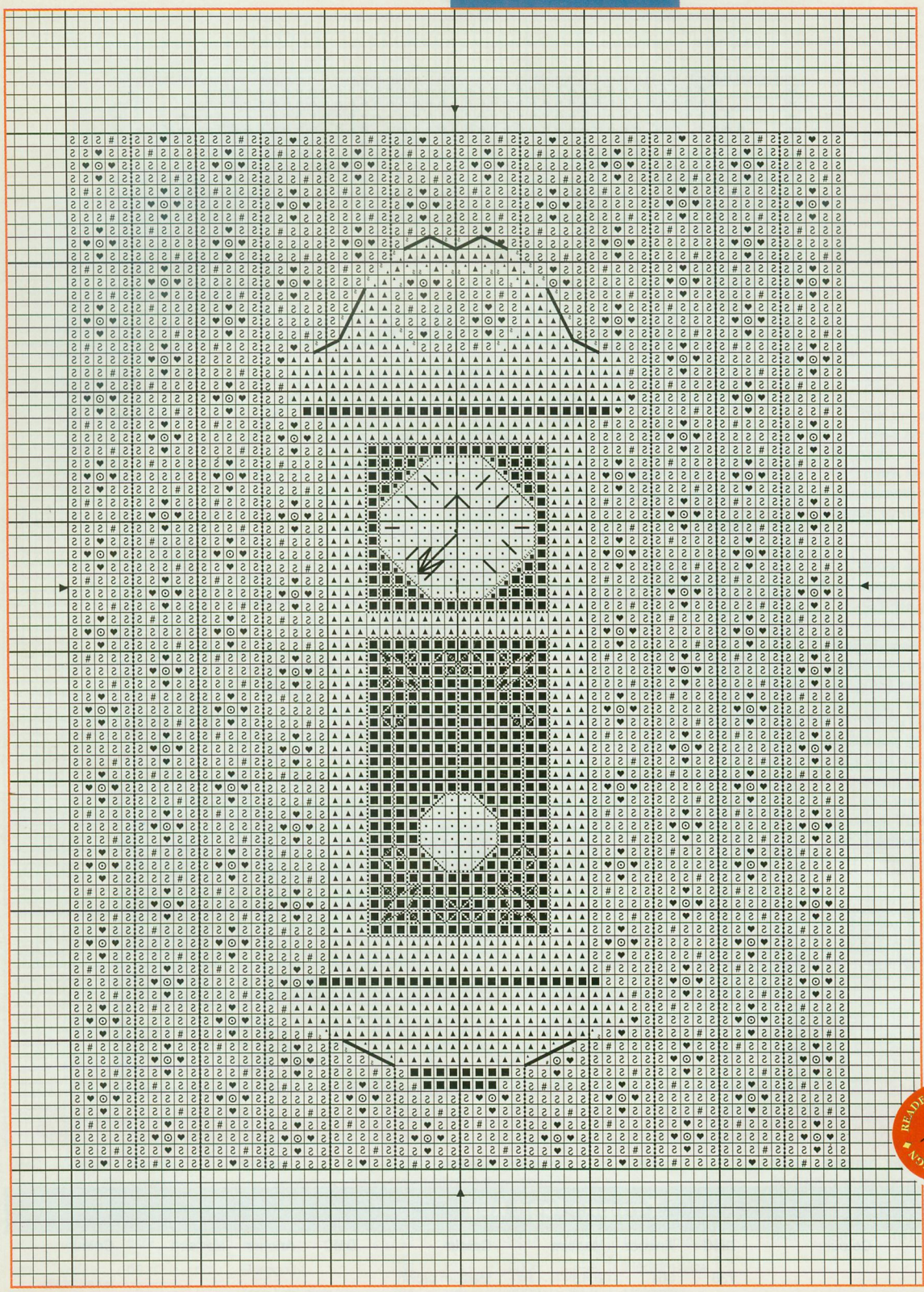
Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.



Tempus fugit key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
ecru	387	ecru	Ecru
311	148	1008	Dark blue
312	979	1005	Blue
322	978	1004	Medium blue
400	351	2305	Brown
415	398	1803	Grey
437	362	2012	Light brown
469	267	1503	Dark green
470	266	1502	Medium green
471	265	1501	Green
472	253	1414	Light green
644	391	1907	Pale beige
680	901	2210	Dark gold
726	295	0109	Warm yellow
727	293	0110	Yellow
738	361	2013	Medium brown
742	303	0114	Orange
775	975	1001	Very light blue
919	340	0313	Terracotta
3078	292	0102	Light yellow
3325	144	1002	Light blue
3743	869	0807	Warm grey
783	306	2211	Toffee
Half cross stitch in two strands			
ecru	387	ecru	Ecru
311	148	1008	Dark blue
Backstitch all lines in number of strands indicated			
645	400	1811	Dark grey (1) pillars and facade
680	901	2210	Dark gold (1)
726	295	0109	face details Warm yellow (1) sun outline
919	340	0313	Terracotta (1) roof outline
ecru	387	ecru	Ecru (2) window
415	398	1803	Grey (1) moon
783	306	2211	Toffee clock face(1), numerals and letters (2)
Madeira glissengloss 03			Metallic gold (1)

Finished size: Stitch count 79 high x 53 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 7⅛x4⅞in (18.25x12.25cm)
14HPI aida 5⅝x3¾in (14.25x9.5cm)
18HPI aida 4¼x3in (11x7.5cm)



Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

You will need

- **18HPI aida** – 7x6in (18x15cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 26
- **Frame** – 6¾x5¾in (16.75x14.5cm), dark wood
- **Mount** – with a 4⅜x3¼in (11x8cm) rectangular opening blue and brown
- **2oz wadding** – 4⅜x3¼in (11x8cm)

READER DESIGN

Family clock key

Cross stitch in two strands

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
307	289	0104	Bright yellow
433	371	2008	Dark brown
435	369	2010	Brown
726	297	0109	Dull yellow
800	136	0910	Blue
890	218	1314	Dark green
3341	328	0303	Peach

Backstitch all lines in one strand

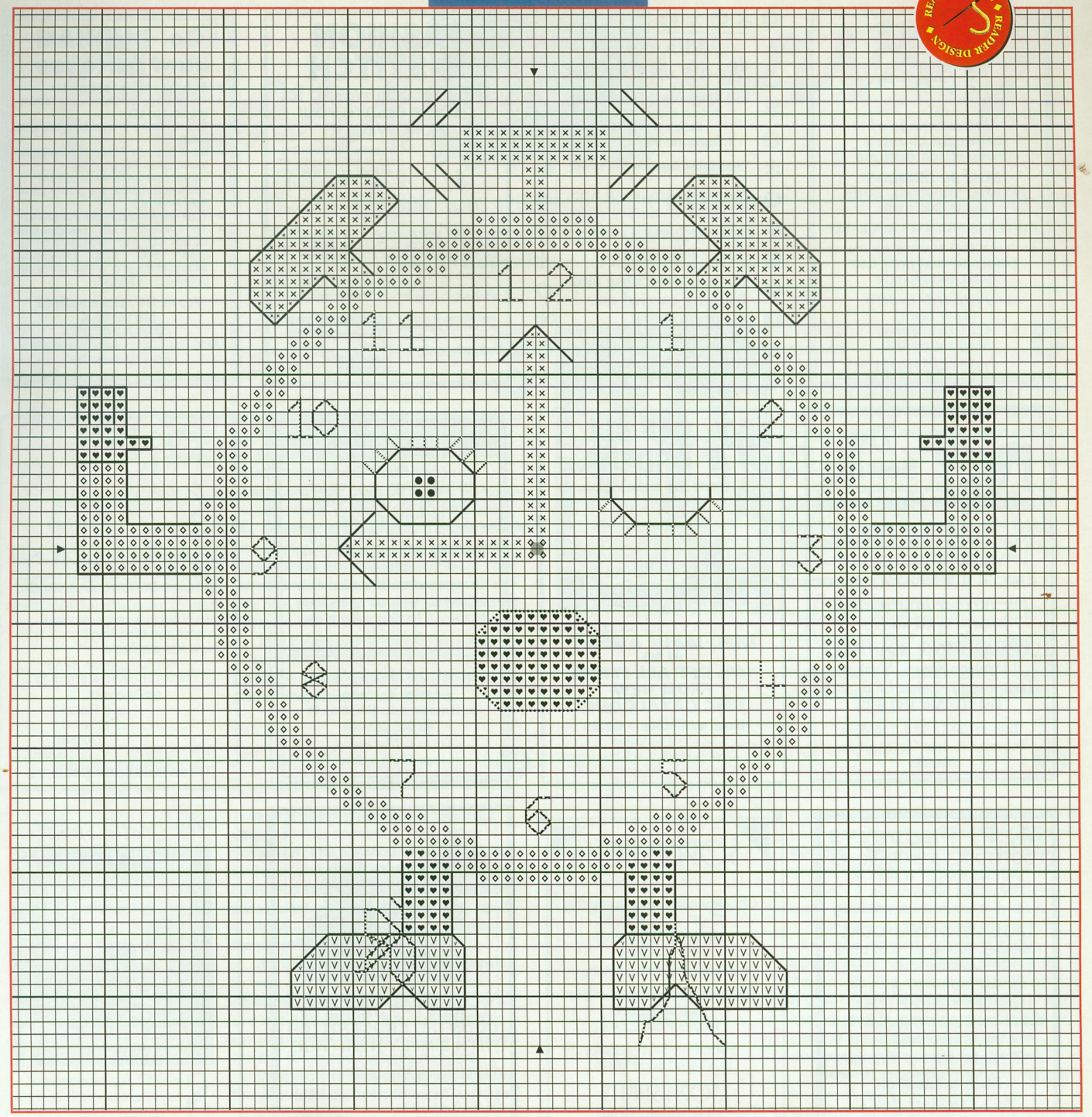
DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
435	369	2010	Brown outline detail on clock
433	371	2008	Dark brown numerals and hands
726	297	0109	Dull yellow clock details
996	433	1103	Bright blue wallpaper

French knots in one strand

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
433	371	2008	Dark brown centre of clockface

Finished size: Stitch count 80 high x 60 wide

Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 7¼x5⅜in (18.5x13.5cm)
14HPI aida 5⅝x4¼in (14.25x11cm)
18HPI aida 4⅜x3¼in (11x8cm)



Wake up key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira		Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
310	403	Black		Black
666	046	0210		Red
725	306	0113		Yellow
754	006	0305		Flesh
943	188	1203		Green
Backstitch all lines in one strand				
310	403	black		Black eyes
Backstitch all lines in two strands				
310	403	black		Black eyelashes
550	102	0714		Dark purple laces and numerals
666	046	0210		Red mouth

Finished size: Stitch count 76 high x 74 wide

Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 6⅞x6¾in (17.5x17cm)
14HPI aida 5⅜x5¼in (13.5x13cm)
18HPI aida 4¼x4⅛in (11x10.5cm)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 9x9in (23x23cm)
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Frame** – 8x8in (20.5x20.5cm), red
- **Mount board** – with a 6in (15x 15cm) circular opening, yellow

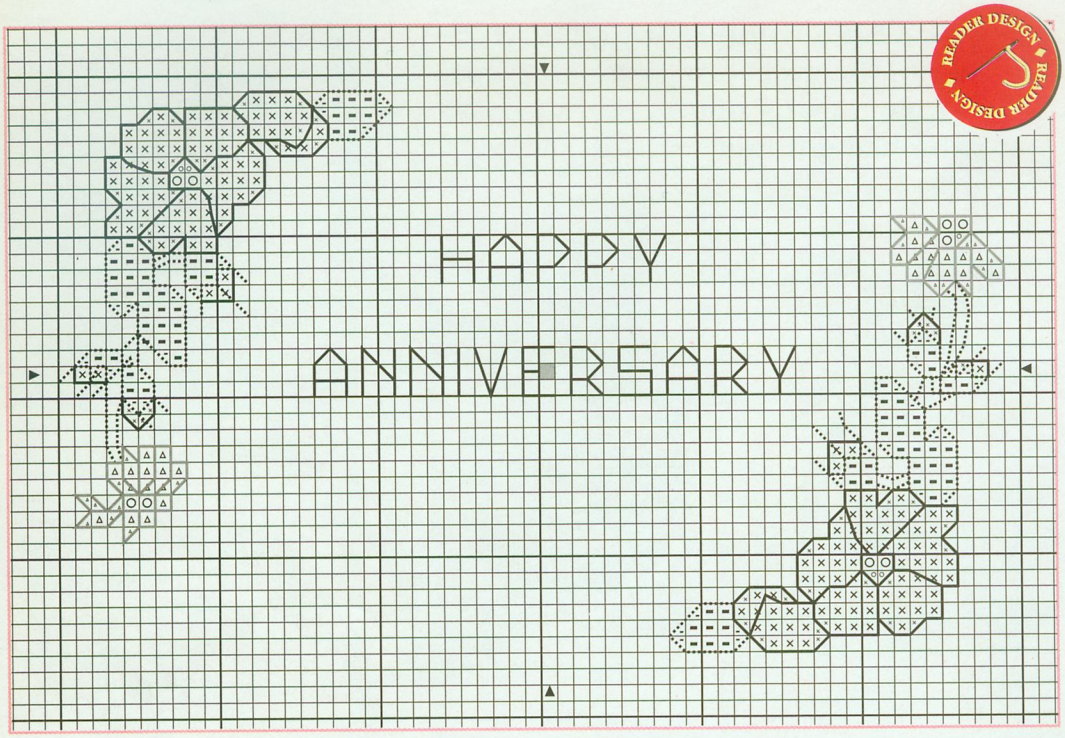
Katherine
and
Michael
16 SEPTEMBER 1967 ~ 1992
Time alone reveals
the depth of love
Best
Wishes
HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY
Happy
Anniversary

ANNIVERSARY PROJECTS

Times to remember

Marriage is a big adventure, whether you're looking forward to the great day or looking back on 40 blissful years. So why not mark the occasion with a stitched gift that will keep for ever?

The projects in this section were designed by:
Anniversary swans – Gail Bussi (designer);
Happy anniversary – Mrs Pool;
Horseshoe – Miss S J May; Best wishes – Louise Spanner; 40 Congratulations – Christina Barker (readers)



READER DESIGN

You will need

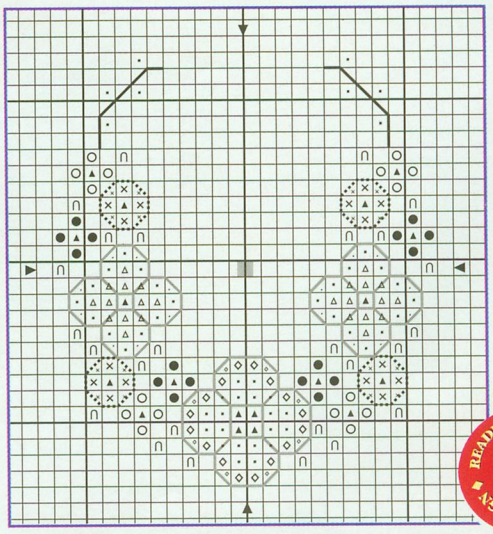
- **14HPI aida** – 4x6in (10x15cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **2oz wadding** – 2½x4¼in (6.5x11cm)
- **Card** – herb robert, buttercup and wild geranium (DMC)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

Happy anniversary key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira		Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
307	289	0104		Bright yellow
367	216	1312		Green
963	023	0608		Pink
3078	292	0102		Pale yellow
Backstitch all lines in one strand				
307	289	0104		Bright yellow outline small roses
367	216	1312		Green leaf detail
776	024	0503		Deep pink outline pink flowers
3328	011	0406		Red lettering

Finished size: Stitch count 35 high x 59 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 3⅛x5⅜in (7.75x13.5cm)
14HPI aida 2½x4¼in (6.5x11cm)
18HPI aida 1⅞x3¼in (4.75x8cm)



READER DESIGN

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 5x4in (12.5x10cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** - size 24
- **Flexi-hoop** – 4x3in (10x7.5cm), oval

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

Horseshoe key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira		Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
312	979	1005		Dark blue
334	145	1004		Light blue
350	011	0213		Deep orange
353	008	0304		Pale orange
368	215	1310		Green
552	100	0713		Purple
760	036	0813		Peachy pink
3078	292	0102		Yellow
Backstitch all lines in one strand				
350	011	0213		Purple
368	215	1310		Green
552	100	0713		Deep orange

Finished size: Stitch count 27 high x 24 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2½x2⅛in (6.5x5.5cm)
14HPI aida 1⅞x1¾in (4.75x4.5cm)
18HPI aida 1½x1⅜in (3.75x3.5cm)

Did you know?

Two couples are on record for having been married for 86 years. Sir Temulji Bhicaji Nariman and his wife were cousins and both five years old when they married in 1853. The other couple, Lazarus Rowe and Molly Webber, were married in 1743.

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

Best wishes key

Glass beads	Colour
Green	Green
Dark pink	Dark pink
Light pink	Light pink
Yellow	Yellow

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
776	024	0503	Light pink

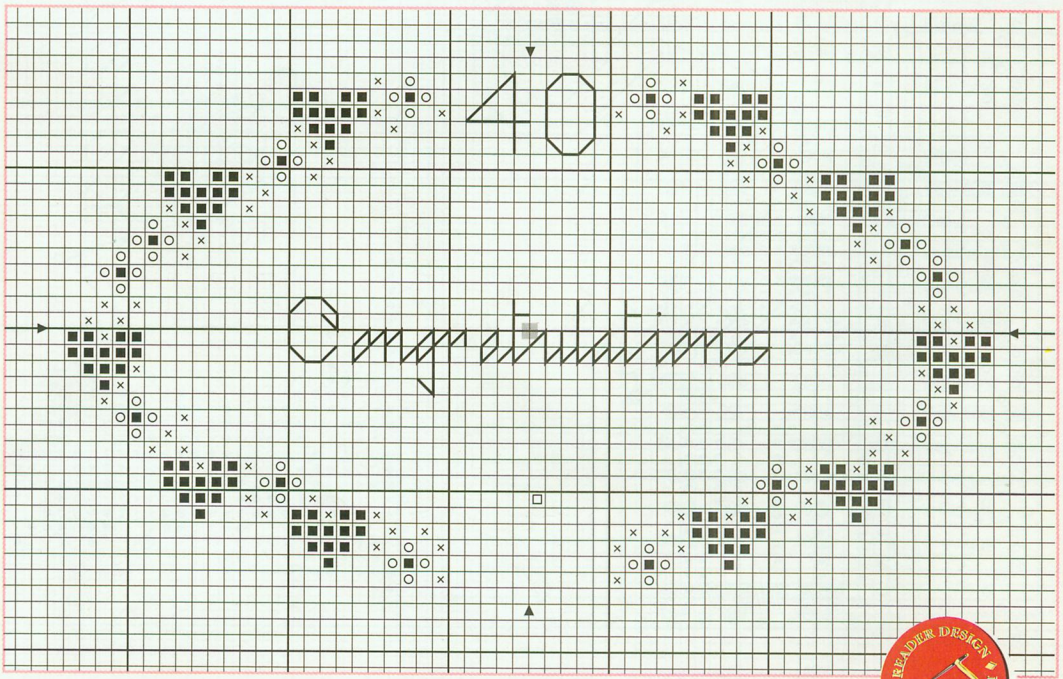
Finished size: Stitch count 35 high x 34 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 3⅛x3in (7.75x7.5cm)
14HPI aida 2½x2⅜in (6.5x6cm)
18HPI aida 1⅞x1¾in (4.75x4.5cm)

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 3½x3½in (9x9cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Beads** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Porcelain box** – 3in (7.5cm) round, cream

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 6x4in (15x10cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Card** – with an oval opening 3x4½in (7.5x11.5cm)
- **2oz wadding** – 3x4½in (7.5x11.5cm)
- **Ribbon** – 5x2⅛in (12.5x5.5cm), burgundy



Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

40 congratulations key

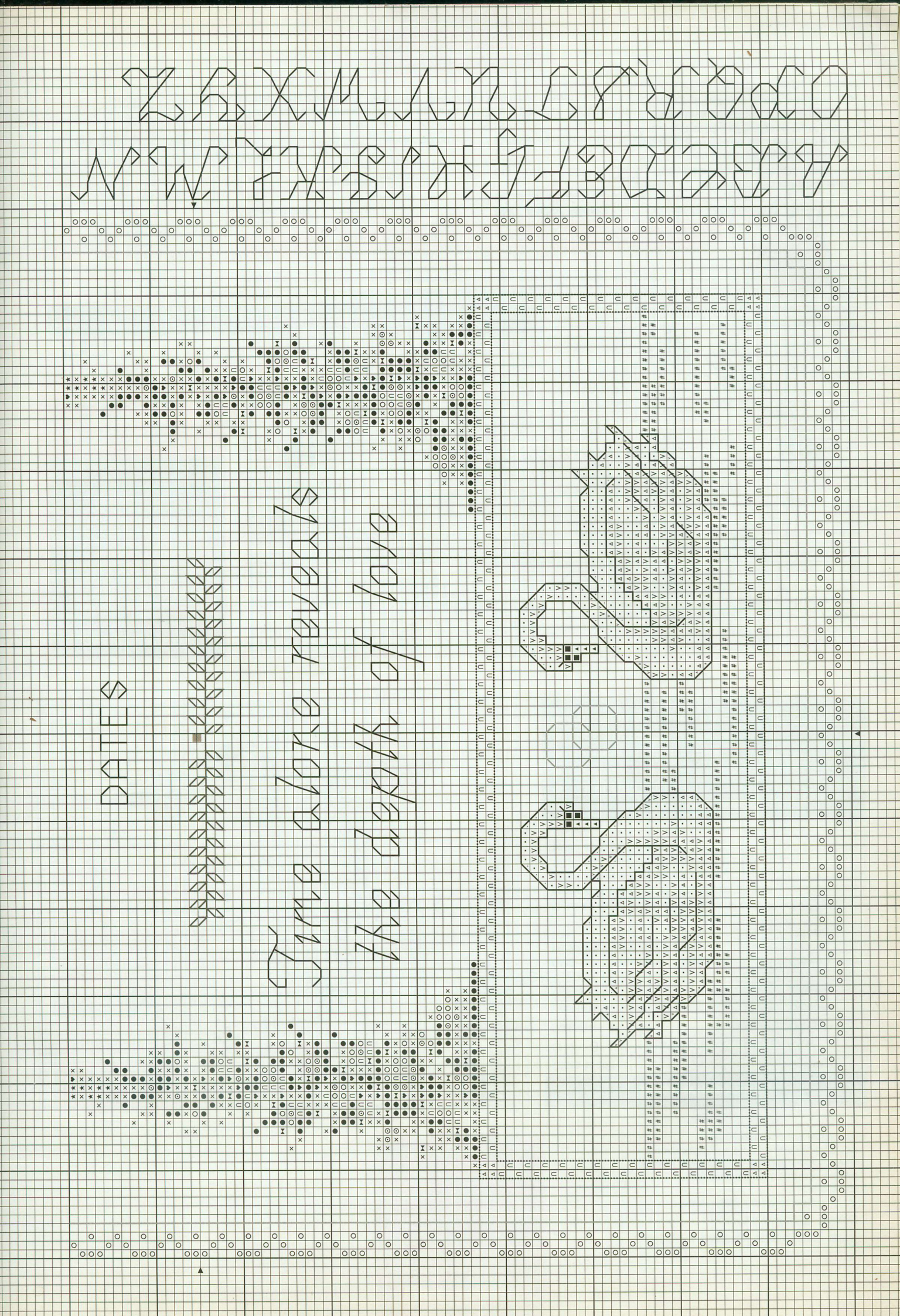
Glass Beads		DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
56	Heather	Backstitch all lines in two strands			
58	Emerald green	814	022	0514	Ruby red
144	Ruby red				
	Denotes ribbon				

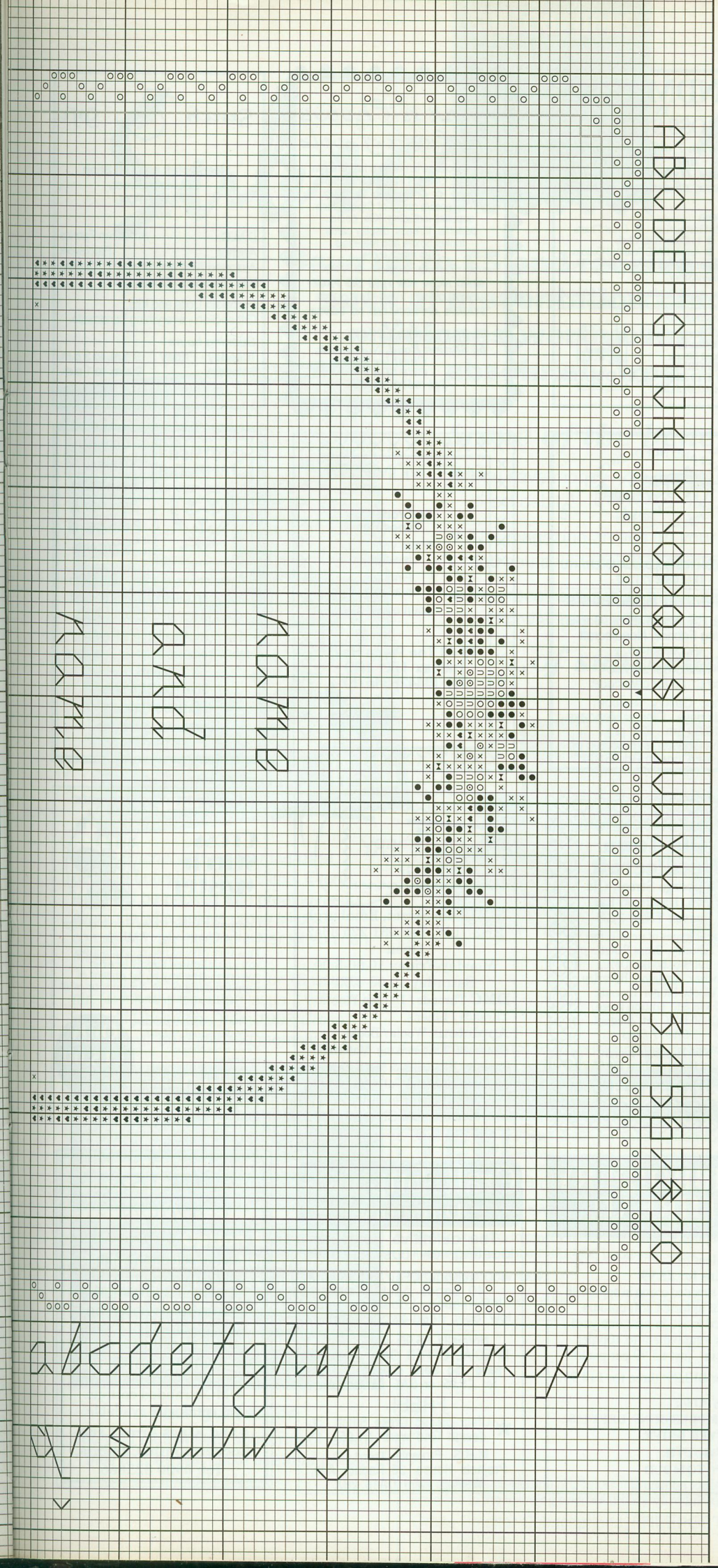
Finished size: Stitch count 32 high x 58 wide

Fabric and approximate finished design area: 11HPI aida 2⅞x5¼in (7.25x13cm); 14HPI aida 2¼x4⅛in (5.75x10.5cm); 18HPI aida 1¾x3¼in (4.5x8cm)

Did you know?

On 30th October 1988 6516 couples were married at the same time. The massive ceremony took place in South Korea.


DATES
Stitch over two threads



Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

You will need

- **18HPI aida** – 12x10in (30.5x25.5cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Silver thread** – Madeira
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **2oz wadding** – 8½x6¾in (21.5x17cm)
- **Mount board** – with 8½x6¾in (21.5x17cm) opening
- **Frame** – 11½x10in (30x 25.5cm), silver

Working instructions

1 **Work the cross stitches, half cross stitches and backstitches in one strand, except the silver which is worked in two strands.**

2 **The lettering should be added using the alphabets provided. Take great care to centre each row before you begin stitching.**

Anniversary Sampler Key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Half cross stitch in one strand			
927	848	1708	Blue grey
Cross stitch in one strand			
white	001	white	White
225	892	0501	Very light pink
415	398	1803	Grey
523	859	1511	Lt sage green
742	303	0114	Dark yellow
744	301	0110	Light yellow
760	009	0405	Pink
761	893	0813	Light pink
762	397	1804	Very light grey
844	401	1809	Very dark grey
3023	392	1903	Lt beige grey
3024	900	1901	V lt beige grey
3363	861	1602	Grey green
Backstitch in one strand			
414	399	1801	Dark grey swan outlines, letters
523	859	1511	Light sage green leaves
760	009	0405	Pink inner borders
Backstitch in two strands			
–	–	Lt silver thread	Silver outer border, rings

Finished size: Stitch count 148 high x 119 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
14HPI aida 10½x8½in (26.5x21.5cm)
18HPI aida 8⅛x6⅝in (20.75x16.75cm)

Bear crazy

Teddy bears are the perfect way to brighten up a child's bedroom and they are such fun to stitch. Julie Cook looks at four teddy project kits ranging from something for the beginner, to stamped cross stitch that definitely calls for some skill.

Anchor Forever Friends Swinging bears

Coats Patons Crafts
£10.95

What you get:

- 14HPI aida, white
- Stranded cotton – 13 shades
- Needle
- Instructions
- Chart
- Thread organiser

This kit comes in a soft, resealable plastic bag with a picture of the finished design. No skill rating or list of the contents is given.

Initial reaction

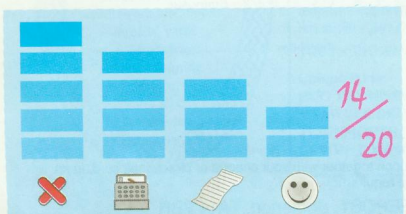
The design is suitable for an 8in (20.5cm) mount when finished and is quite simple. With no half stitches and outlining only on the bears' faces, it's ideal for a novice stitcher. What a pity there is no indication of this on the packaging.

Instructions

A large, double sheet of instructions is provided, diagrams are used to help the explanations, and washing and finishing details are also given. All the instructions are clear and easy to follow.

Conclusion

Retailing at approximately £10.95, this simple design is quite good value for money. Although the design is an attractive one, the lack of half stitches makes this an unexciting project for the more experienced stitcher. A skill rating and a contents list would improve this kit and also prevent some disappointment.



How our verdict works

- Ease of working
- Value for money
- Instructions
- Level of fun
- 20/20 Overall value verdict

Where to buy your kits

These kits are available from good needlecraft shops. In case of difficulty contact:

Tootal Craft Ltd
Units 1–2, Westpoint
Enterprise Park
Clarence Avenue
Trafford Park
Manchester
M17 1QS

Coats Patons Crafts
McMullen Road
Darlington
Co Durham, DL1 1YQ

Six best known bears

- Rupert
- Paddington
- Aloysius
- Yogi
- Sooty
- Winnie the Pooh

Dimensions Bubble your troubles away

Tootal Craft
£18.99

What you get:

- 11HPI aida, white
- Stranded cotton – 16 colours
- Needle
- Instructions
- Chart
- Thread organiser

A colour photograph dominates the front of this kit and a list of the contents is shown beneath it.

Initial reaction

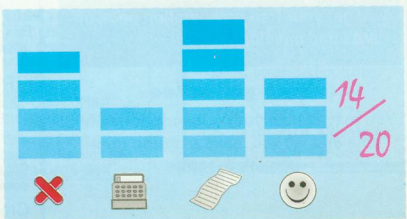
A large count aida is provided (11HPI) and the finished picture measures 9x11in (23x28cm). The design is brightly coloured and amusing, if fairly simple. There are some half stitches, and colour blending is used to give a shaded effect.

Instructions

The instructions are excellent, from preparing the fabric to useful stitching hints. The colour-accented chart is extremely clear and the symbols and colours are combined to simplify the reading of the chart. There are thorough explanations of half stitches, french knots and backstitch.

Conclusion

At around £18.99 this kit is expensive, but the finished project is large, the design straightforward, and the chart and instructions first-class. Dimensions has put much thought into helping the stitcher (with a helpline – albeit in America). If the bathtub bear appeals, you won't be disappointed.



Heritage Thread Bears Swinging

Heritage Stitchcraft
£18.50

What you get:

- 27HPI evenweave cotton, beige
- Stranded cotton – 22 shades
- Needle
- Instructions
- Large chart – in two pieces
- Greetings card
- Envelope

At the front of this kit is a large picture of the design (taken from an original watercolour by John Clayton); the contents and size are listed at the back. The type of material used is also shown but there is no skill rating.

Initial reaction

Once opened it is obvious that this is not a beginner's project, but it is difficult to conclude this from the information on the packaging.

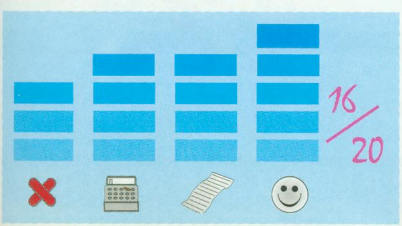
The beige 27HPI evenweave complements the teddies well and the threads are lovely shades of orange and yellow. This kit exudes charm right down to the inclusion of a greetings card by John Clayton.

Instructions

This is a complex design but the instructions are good and diagrams are provided where needed. The huge chart is in two pieces, but it has to be this big because the design is so complex.

Conclusion

I loved this kit – it's definitely a cut above the ordinary. Although expensive, I felt that the quality of the contents and the extra bit of style justified it.



How our verdict works

- Ease of working
- Value for money
- Instructions
- Level of fun
- 20/20 Overall value verdict

Where to buy your kits

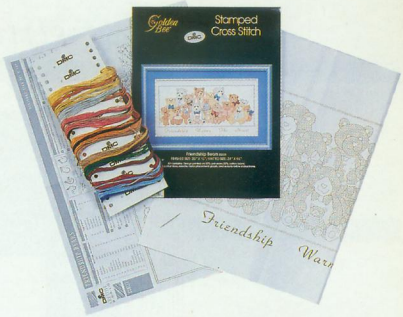
These kits are available from good needlecraft shops. In case of difficulty contact:

Heritage Stitchcraft
Nathan Court
Redbrook Lane
Brereton, Nr Rugeley
Staffordshire
WS15 1QU

DMC Creative World
Pullman Road
Wigston,
Leicestershire
LE18 2DY

Barefaced

Polar bears have been known to go visiting. When a schoolteacher from Kara Sea in northern Siberia went to answer her doorbell one day she found a huge polar bear had been leaning on it.



DMC Stamped Cross Stitch Friendship Bears

DMC
approx. £11.95

What you get:

- Evenweave polyester/cotton, white
- Stranded cotton – 16 colours
- Needle
- Instructions
- Chart
- Thread organiser

The completed friendship bears project is shown at the front of this kit. The contents and design size are also given.

Initial reaction

The kit is stamped cross stitch, which is fairly taxing, and certainly amusing. The lack of holes makes it tricky to get the stitches even but, after looking at the picture, I concluded that this was not strictly necessary – an uneven appearance seems to add to the charm.

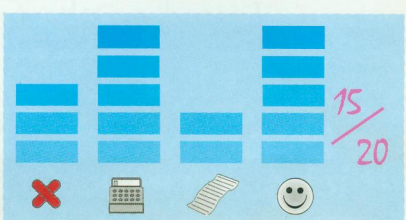
I found the edges confusing – the outlining is done first and some of the stitches overlap slightly. Once I got used to this I had great fun working the stitches, and there are a variety of these in addition to cross stitch.

Instructions

Unfortunately, these are very basic and only the rudiments of the stitches are given. They certainly need to be more comprehensive.

Conclusion

What a lot of fun this kit is. However, more detailed instructions would have enabled me to give it the high overall score it deserves for originality and value for money.



DANGER!
Stitcher
At Work
Faith moves mountains
Congratulations

SPECIAL WISHES PROJECTS

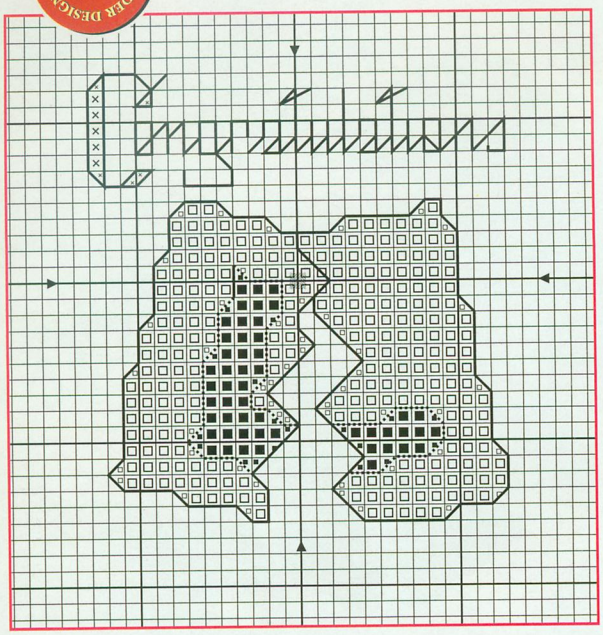
Say it with stitches

We all like to share our friends' anxieties, pleasures and thoughts. We hope they'll be happy in their new home, we're sure they'll pass their driving test and we know they like stitching as much as we do. And what better way to tell them than with a stitched gift that says it all?

The projects in this section have been designed by:

Home sweet home; small round frame, pill box – Zoe Smith (designer)
Congratulations – Miss Morley; Bon voyage – Mrs Pool; Stitcher at work – Mrs Kemsley; Faith moves mountains – Marion Ottery (readers)

READER DESIGN



Congratulations key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
White	002	white	White
310	403	black	Black
817	9046	0211	Red
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
310	403	black	Black
817	9046	0211	Red

Finished size: Stitch count 28 high x 26 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2½x2⅜in (6.5x6cm)
14HPI aida 2x1⅞in (5x4.75cm)
18HPI aida 1½x1½in (3.75x3.75cm)

Did you know?

According to Robert Louis Stevenson (in *El Dorado*, chapter six of *Treasure Island*): "to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive."

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

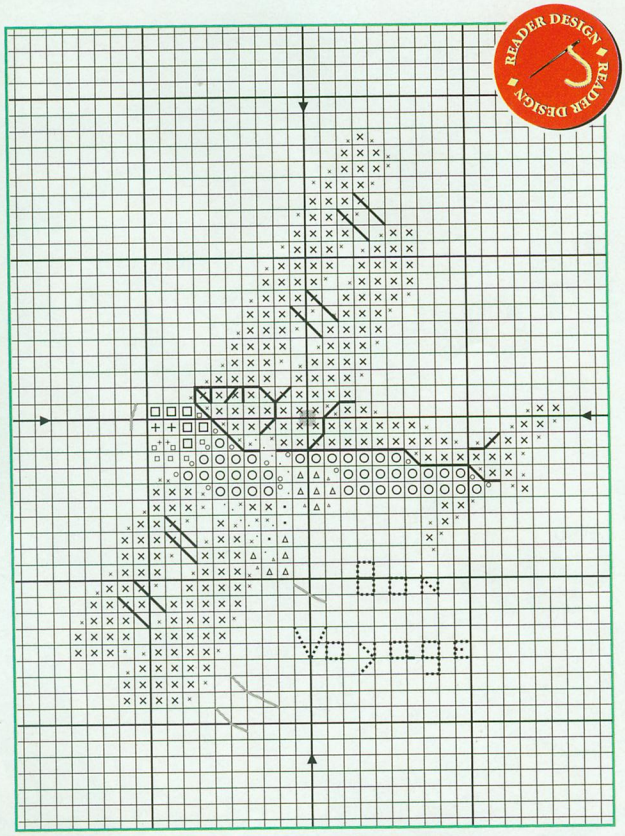
You will need

- **14HPI aida** 4½x4½in (11.5x11.5cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Flexi-hoop** – 3½in (9cm), rope, white
- **Felt** – 3½in (9cm), circular, white

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 6x4in (15x10cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Card** – with a 3in (7.5cm) circular cut out, white
- **2oz wadding** – 3in (7.5cm) circular

READER DESIGN

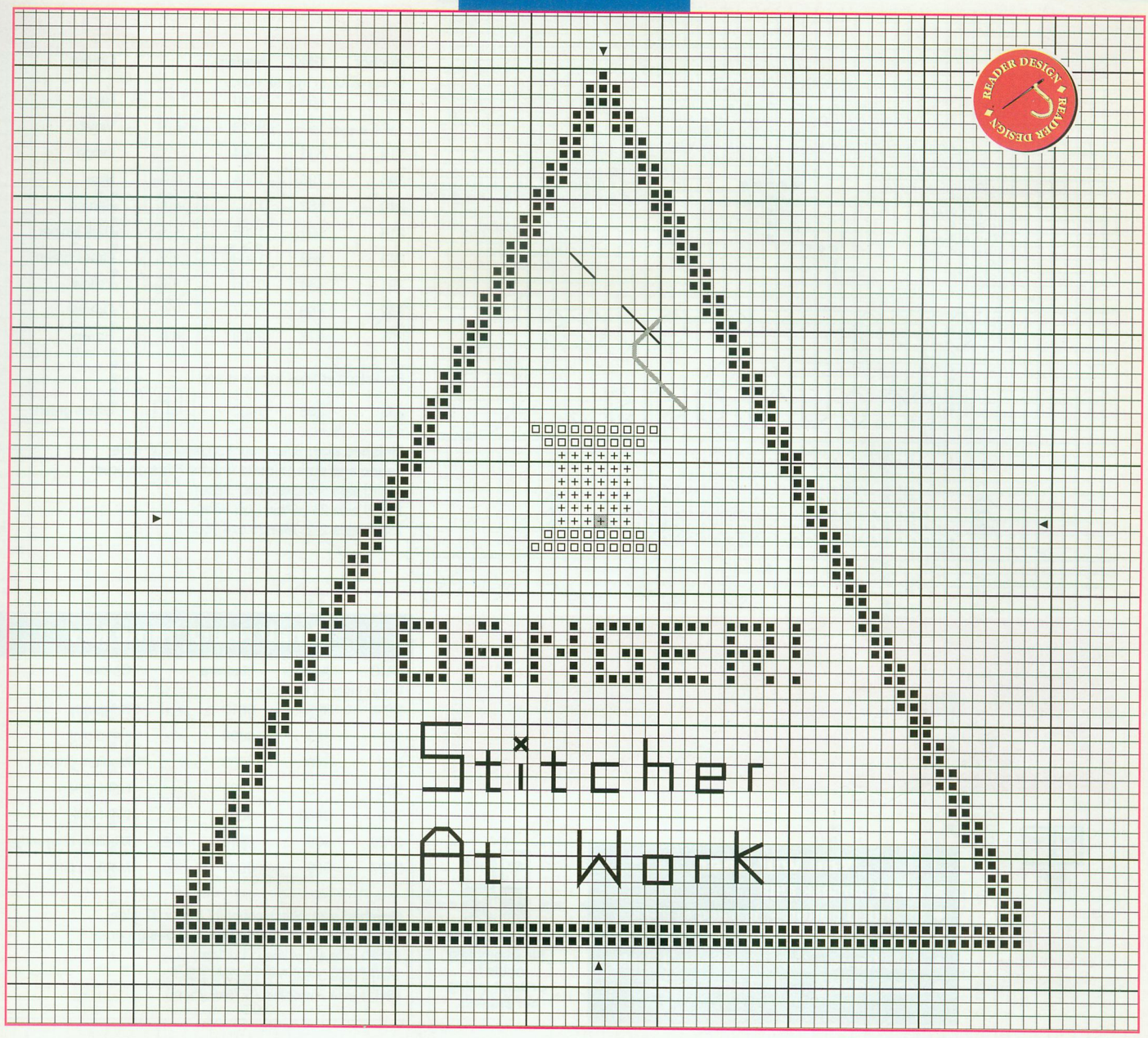


Bon voyage key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
310	403	black	Black
317	400	1714	Dark grey
318	399	1801	Medium grey
666	046	0210	Red
800	136	0910	Pale blue
824	164	1010	Deep blue
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
310	403	black	Black plane markings and spars
800	136	0910	Pale blue vapour trail
824	164	1010	Deep blue lettering

Finished size: Stitch count 36 high x 31 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 3¼x2⅞in (8x7.25cm)
14HPI aida 2½x2½in (6.5x6.5cm)
18HPI aida 2x1¾in (5x4.5cm)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.



Stitcher at work key

Anchor	DMC	Madeira		Colour
Cross stitch in two strands				
046	666	0210		Red
361	738	2014		Buff
922	930	1712		Blue
Backstitch all lines in two strands				
403	310	black		Black lettering
233	451	1808		Grey needle
922	930	1712		Blue thread

Finished size: Stitch count 67 high x 65 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 6x5⅞in (15x14.75cm)
14HPI aida 4¾x4⅝in (12x11.75cm)
18HPI aida 3¾x3⅝in (9.5x9.25cm)

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 7x6in (18x15cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Cardboard** – 5½x5in (14x12.5cm)
- **2oz wadding** – 5½x5in (14x12.5cm)
- **Felt** 5½x5in (14x12.5cm), red
- **Double sided tape**

To assemble your triangle

1 Cut out a triangle of cardboard slightly larger than the red triangle on the stitching.

2 Cover one side of the cardboard with the wadding.

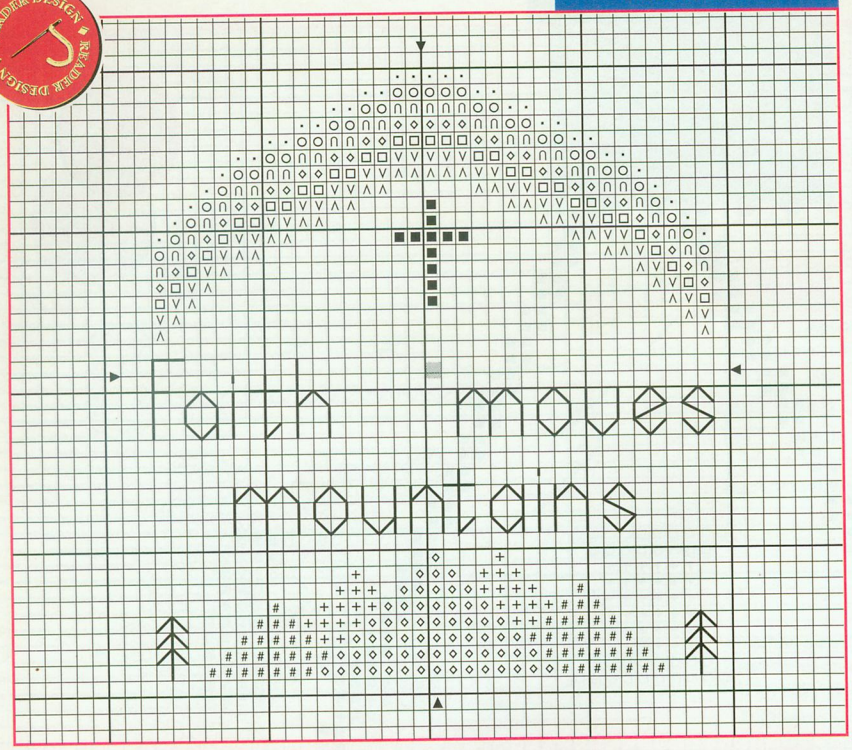
3 Cut the aida fabric to ½in (13cm) larger than the cardboard shape.

4 Attach double-sided tape to the back edges of the triangle. Wrap the fabric over the wadded shape, attaching it to the tape.

5 Sew or stick a triangle of felt on to the back of the triangle, attach a thread to the back of your work for hanging.

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

READER DESIGN



Faith moves mountains key

Anchor	DMC	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
046	666	0210	Red
112	552	0713	Violet
119	333	0804	Indigo
146	798	1004	Blue
210	562	1312	Spruce
218	501	1205	Dark juniper
243	988	1402	Grass green
291	444	0106	Yellow
332	608	0207	Orange
355	975	2303	Brown
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
243	988	1402	Grass green

Finished size: Stitch count 38 high x 35 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 3½x3⅛in (9x7.75cm)
14HPI aida 2¾x2½in (7x6.5cm)
18HPI aida 2⅛x1⅞in (5.5x4.75cm)

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 6x6in (15x 15cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Flexi-hoop** – 4½in (11.5cm) circular, green
- **Felt** – 4½in (11.5cm) circular, green

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

Small round frame key

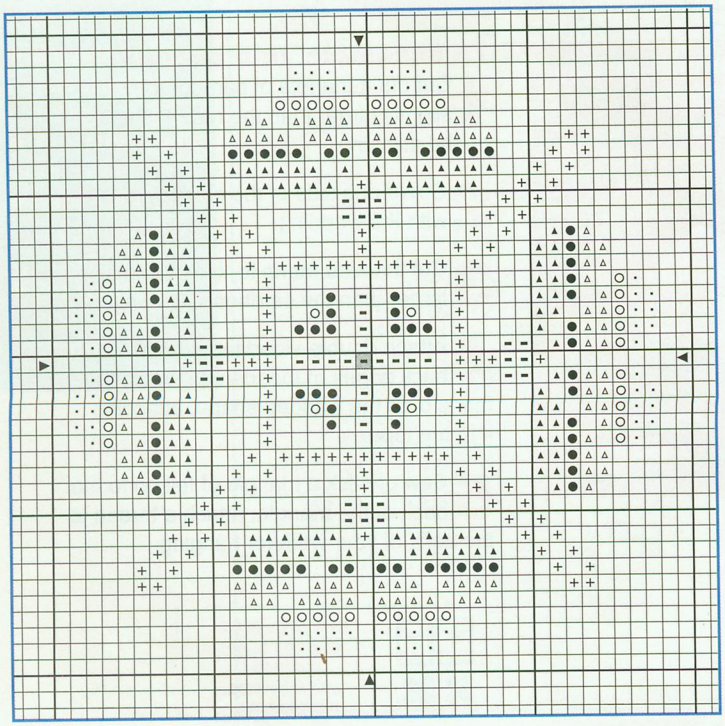
DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
315	897	0810	Burgundy
316	895	0809	Deep pink
502	216	1703	Medium green
503	875	1702	Light green
778	0968	0808	Light pink
3726	896	0810	Medium burgundy
3727	969	0605	Medium pink

Finished size: Stitch count 37 high x 37 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 4¼x4¼in (11x11cm)
14HPI aida 3⅝x3⅝in (9.25x9.25cm)
18HPI aida 2⅝x2⅝in (6.75x6.75cm)

You will need

- **18HPI damask aida**
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 26
- **Gold frame** – 3in (7.5cm) round (DMC)
- **2oz wadding** – 3in (7.5cm) round

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.



Pill box key

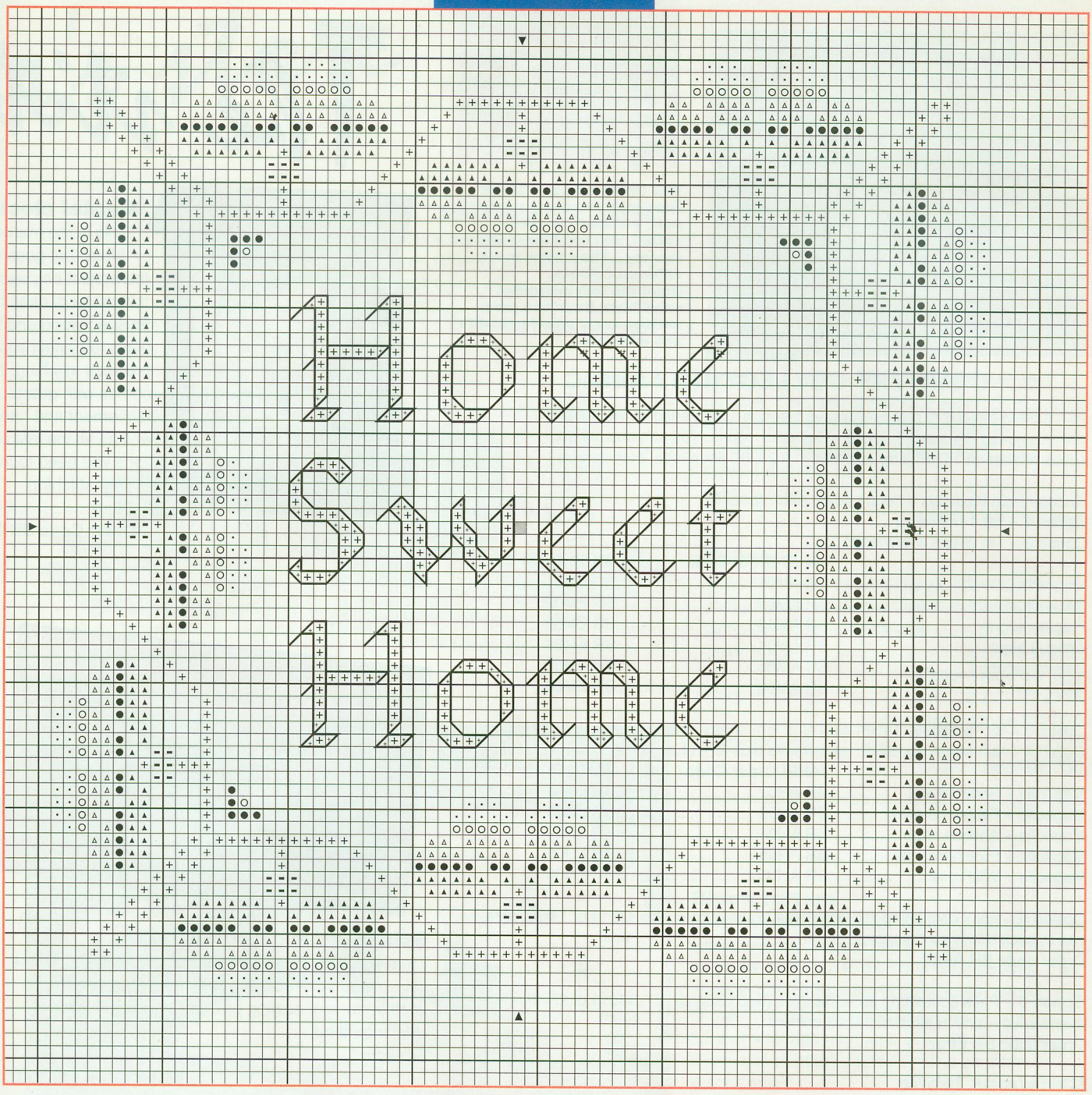
DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
315	897	0810	Burgundy
316	895	0809	Deep pink
502	216	1703	Medium green
503	875	1702	Light green
778	968	0808	Light pink
3726	896	0810	Medium burgundy
3727	969	0605	Medium pink

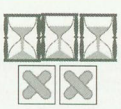
Finished size: Stitch count 17 high x 17 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 1½x1½in (3.75x3.75cm)
14HPI aida 1x1in (2.5x2.5cm)
18HPI aida ⅞x⅞in (22x22mm)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

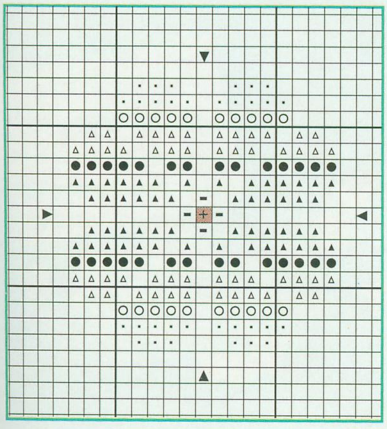
You will need

- **18HPI damask aida**
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 26
- **Pill box** – 1½in (3.8cm) round, burgundy (Framecraft)





Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.



Home sweet home key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
315	897	0810	Burgundy
316	895	0809	Deep pink
502	216	1703	Medium green
503	875	1702	Light green
778	968	0808	Light pink
3726	896	0810	Medium burgundy
3727	969	0605	Medium pink
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
501	877	1704	Dark green

Finished size: Stitch count 75 high x 75 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 6⅞x6⅞in (17.5x17.5cm)
14HPI aida 5⅜x5⅜in (13x13cm)
18HPI aida 4⅛x4⅛in (10.5x10.5cm)

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 10x10in (25.5x25.5cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Frame** – 9x9in (23x 23cm), wood dragged
- **Mount boards** – with a 5¾x5¾in (14.5x 14.5cm), opening, burgundy and green
- **2oz wadding** – 5¾x5¾in (14.5x14.5cm)

Happy Christmas

CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Full of cheer

How often have you promised yourself you would start preparing for Christmas earlier next year and avoid a last-minute rush? To get you in the right frame of mind, we have some delightful designs for cards and keepsakes as well as a teddy picture that will spread festive cheer to any Christmas room.

The projects in this section were designed by:

Designers
Christmas bear – Julie Cook
Christmas trees – Zoe Smith

Readers
Snowman – Jo Hilton
Fir cone – Lorna Pacy
Christmas goose – Tessa Slaughter

Snowman key

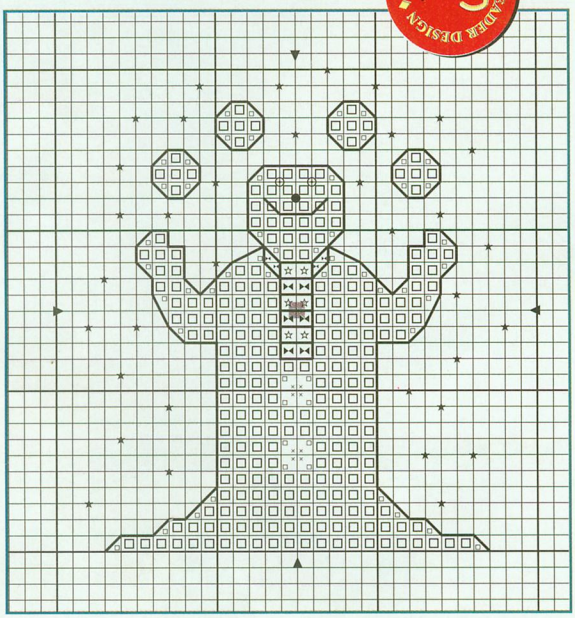
DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
white	001	white	White
471	266	1408	Lime green
666	046	0210	Red
3371	382	2004	Dark brown
Apply beads using sewing thread			
2mm black			Black
2mm pearl			Pearl
3mm red			Red
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
3371	382	2004	Dark brown

Finished size: Stitch count 30 high x 26 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2¾x2½in (7x6.5cm)
14HPI aida 2⅛x1⅞in (5.5x4.75cm)
18HPI aida 1⅝x1½in (4x3.75cm)

You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 5x4in (12.5x10cm), dark blue
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Flexi-hoop** – 4x3in (10x7.5cm), oval, white
- **Beads** – 35 small white, 2 black, 1 red
- **Felt** – 4x3in (10x7.5cm), dark blue

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.



Christmas bear key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
310	403	black	Black
321	013	0510	Red
433	358	2008	Dark brown
435	365	2010	Medium brown
436	363	2011	Light brown
720	326	0309	Orange
738	361	2013	Beige
824	164	1010	Dark blue
827	159	1014	Light blue
890	218	1314	Dark green
972	298	0107	Golden yellow
986	246	1404	Green
Backstitch all lines in one strand unless indicated			
3031	360	2003	V dark brown skirting and bear outline
433	358	2008	Dark brown bow
939	152	1009	V dark blue outline present
939	152	1009	Very dark blue parcel folds – two strands
720	326	0309	Orange outline parcel
Metallic gold		gold	Bows on presents

Finished size: Stitch count 82 high x 68 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 7½x6⅛in (19.25x16.25cm)
14HPI aida 5⅞x4⅞in (14.75x12.25cm)
18HPI aida 4½x3¾in (11.5x9.5cm)

Did you know?

Tradition has it that for each mince pie you eat on one of the 12 days of Christmas, you will have a month of good fortune in the coming year. If you eat two pies in one day, however, you will lose the happiness brought by the first.

Fir cone key

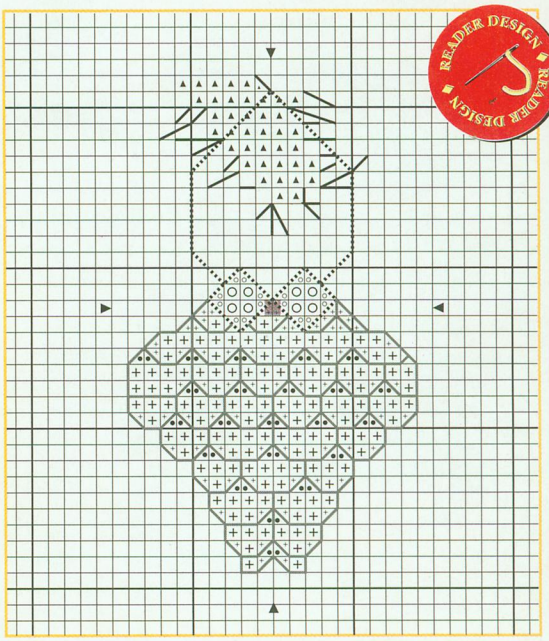
DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
304	799	0511	Red
367	216	1312	Green
840	354	1912	Light brown
938	380	2005	Brown
Long stitch in two strands			
367	216	1312	Green
Backstitch in two strands			
304	799	0511	Red
Backstitch in one strand			
840	354	1912	Light brown

Finished size: Stitch count 31 high x 18 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2⅞x1⅝in (7.25x4cm)
14HPI aida 2¼x1¾in (5.75x4.5cm)
18HPI aida 1¾x1⅝in (4.5x2.5cm)

Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

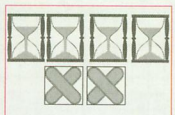
You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 5x5in (12.5x12.5cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton** – as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** – size 24
- **Flexi-hoop** – 3in (7.5cm) round, red
- **Felt** – 3in (7.5cm) round, red



You will need

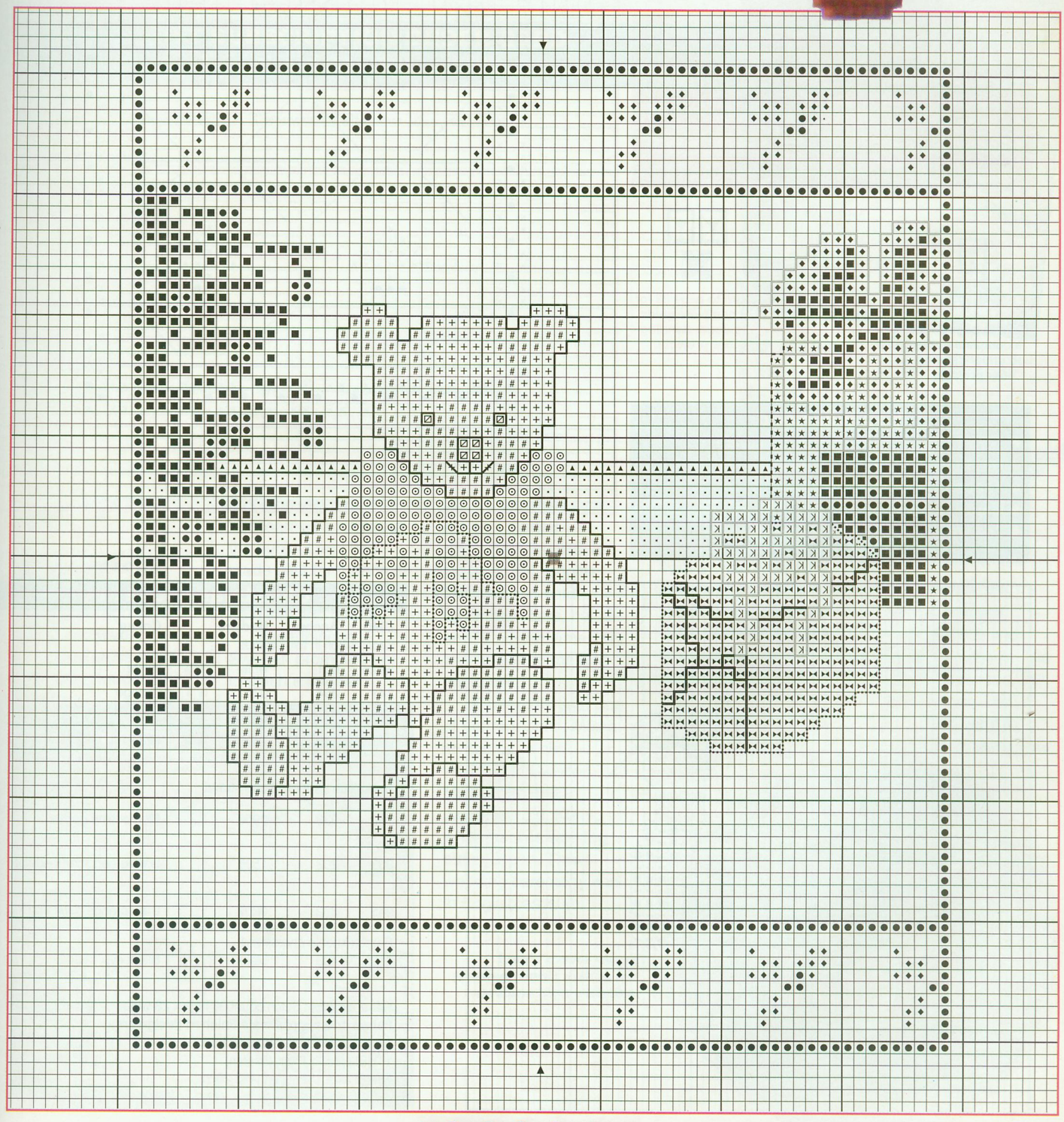
- **14HPI aida** - 9x8½in (23x21.5cm)
- **Stranded cotton** - as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle** - size 24
- **Frame** - 8½x7½in (21.5x19.25cm), gold
- **Mount** - with a 6¼x5¼in (15.75x13.25cm) opening, green
- **2oz wadding** - 6x5in (15x12.5cm)



Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

Did you know?

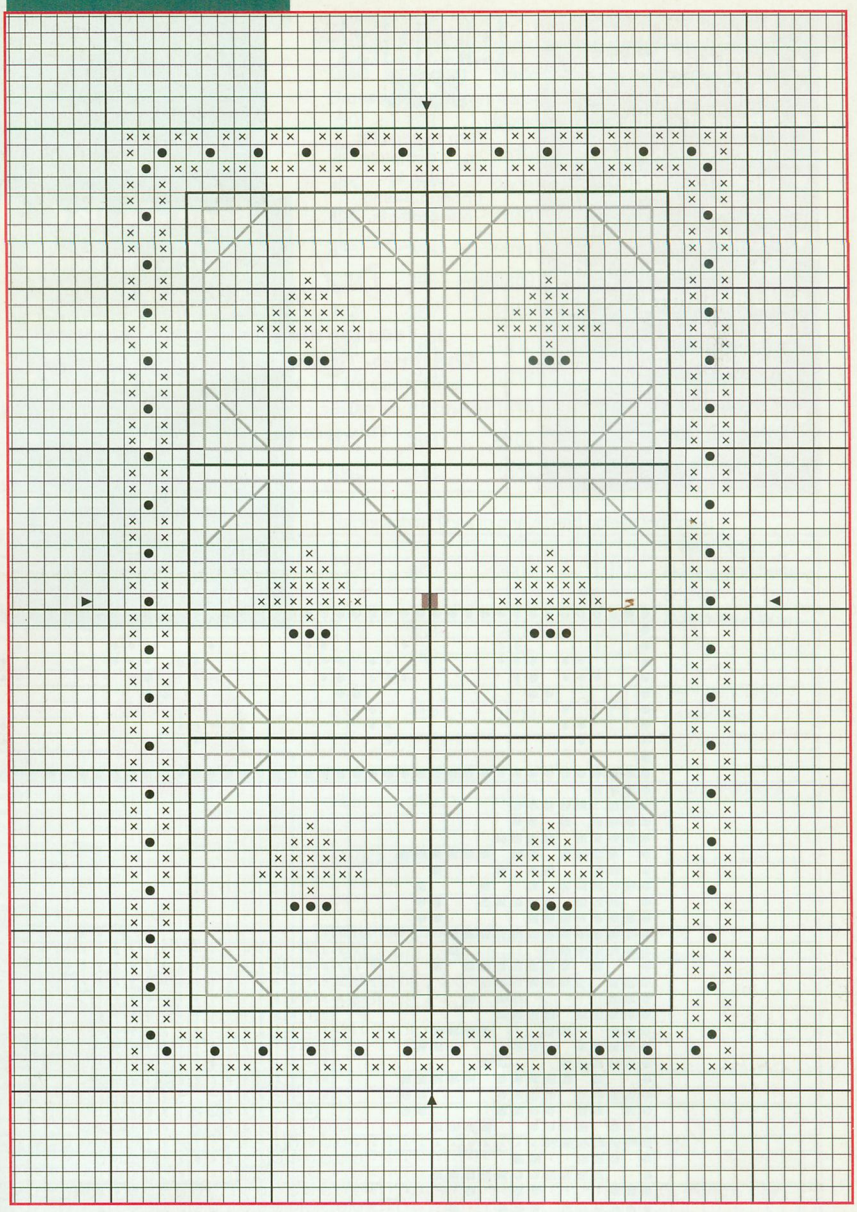
In 1652 the Puritans decided to abolish Christmas. They considered it was too pagan and passed an act forbidding any religious services or other celebrations on Christmas Day. This went on for eight years.



Christmas trees key

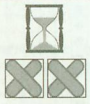
DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
321	013	0510	Red
905	257	1412	Green
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
321	013	0510	Red
905	257	1412	Green

Finished size: Stitch count 59 high x 38 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 5¼x3½in (13.25x9cm)
14HPI aida 4⅛x2¾in (10.5x6.9cm)
18HPI aida 3¼x2⅛in (8x5.4cm)

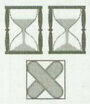


You will need

- **14HPI aida –** 6x4in (15x10cm), white
- **Stranded cotton –** as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle –** size 24
- **Card –** Christmas (DMC)
- **2oz wadding –** 4¼x 2¾in (11x6.9cm)



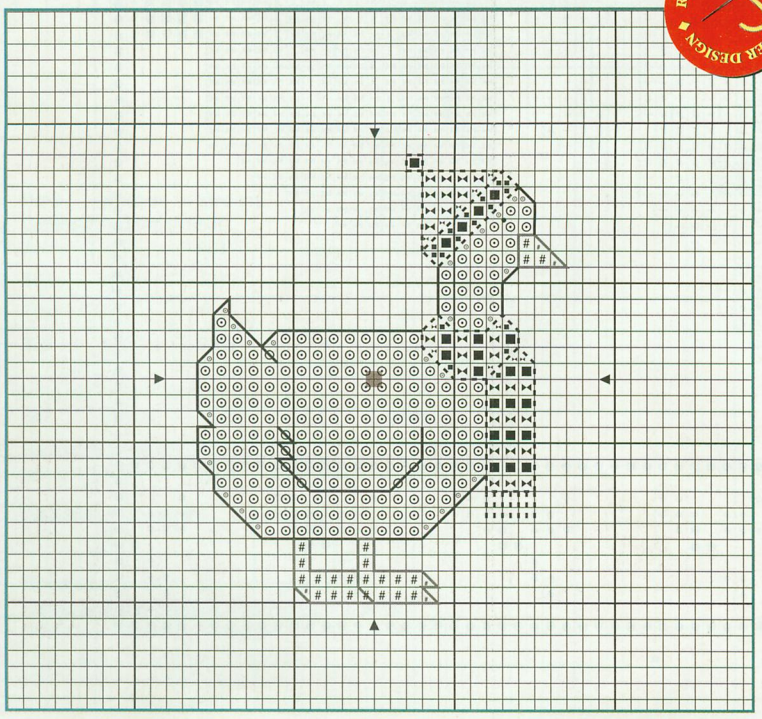
Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.



Turn to page 88 for a complete guide to understanding our projects.

You will need

- **14HPI aida –** 6x4in (15x10cm), cream
- **Stranded cotton –** as listed in the key
- **Tapestry needle –** size 24
- **Card –** Christmas holly and roses (DMC)
- **2oz wadding –** 3in (7.5cm) round



Christmas goose key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
white	001	white	White
741	304	0201	Orange
918	341	0314	Red
986	245	1405	Green
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
793	939	0906	Blue outline goose
935	263	1505	Dark green scarf and hat
946	332	0207	Dark orange beak and feet
French knot in one strand			
310	403	black	Black eye

Finished size: Stitch count 28 high x 23 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 2½x2⅛in (6.5x5.5cm)
14HPI aida 2x1⅝in (5x4cm)
18HPI aida 1⅝x1¼in (4x3.25cm)

Stitching tales

Have you heard about the girl who stitches pop stars or the University of the Third Age craft groups? We bring you four real life stitching stories.

As Kumi doesn't speak any Swedish, she and Mikael (left) said their vows in English.

On one pillow (right) Joan worked the couple's initials.

Did you know?

Glynn "Scotty" Wolfe holds the record for being married the most number of times in the western world. He has, he believes, a total of 41 children from his 27 marriages.

A very special wedding present

Until a year ago Joan Boyle had never attempted cross stitch. After being introduced to this specialist type of embroidery, Joan found that she was hooked. Over the last year she has learned a lot about the subject and has made gifts for friends all over the world from both kits and charts.

A wedding in Sweden prompted her to stitch a special present of a pair of wedding pillows. "Nearly 40 years ago, while attending junior school I started corresponding with a Swedish girl, Brigitta Olsson", she said. "Over the years, her life and family became very well known to me and my family.

Earlier this year one of her four sons, Mikael, invited us to his wedding in Sweden. Mikael had met a Japanese girl, Kumi, when he was working out in Japan. The wedding ceremony was in English as Kumi doesn't speak Swedish and the service was unlike anything I had ever seen before. I thought that this unique wedding called for a special gift."

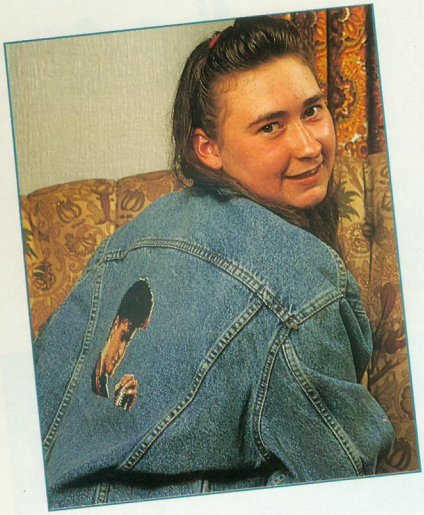
Joan used her newly acquired cross stitch skills to work a pair of wedding pillows from a chart which she adapted by working the initials of the bride and groom into the design. "The present was a huge success", said Joan, "that will always remind Kumi and Mikael of their special day."

Joan adapted the beautifully stitched pillows (left) from a chart.

Pop stars in cross stitch

It's not hard to find charts for subjects, like cats or Christmas. But where do you start if you want to stitch your

Lisa's clever use of shading (right) makes her designs highly lifelike.



Lisa used a jacket as an unusual finishing for her design of pop star, Jordan Knight (left).

Last year the Farnborough group held an exhibition of their work (right).

favourite pop star? Lisa Southward from Cumbria overcame the problem of how to stitch a project for which charts don't exist, by designing them herself. She's one of many young stitchers we've discovered who are keen to experiment and have come up with brilliant ideas for stitching their idols.

Lisa has been working on Jordan and Jon Knight of the group New Kids on the Block for a year. She mounted the one of Jordan on the back of a jacket so that now she can wear him. Lisa copied her design from a magazine. "I chose to this picture because the style and shading in the picture are very definite and I could easily pick the colours to turn it into a chart," she said.

After she had made charts from her designs, Lisa carefully stitched them, making the shading as realistic as possible. The finished result is a clever likeness – the picture of Jordan's brother, Jon, has been framed and it's only when you look closely that you realise it's a stitched piece and not a photograph.

Drawing the chart takes about a week while the stitching takes three to five months. A real labour of love.

Lisa has a job working with horses which keeps her very busy, but at the end of the day she likes to sit and relax. This is an ideal time to stitch and all her spare time is now taken up with putting together new designs. She has drawn up a list of film stars who will be given the cross stitch treatment – at the top of it are Patrick Swayze and Christian Slater. It will be fascinating to see how they shape up.

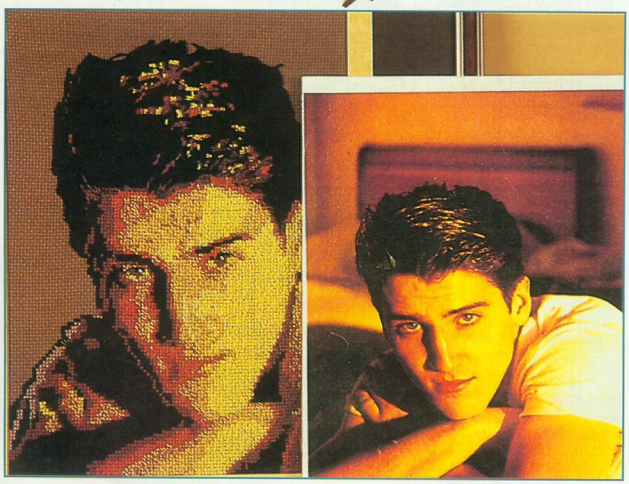
Did you know?

We would love to hear from you if you have an interesting stitching tale you'd like to share with us. Please let us know about the pieces you stitched for a special occasion, or any unusual projects you are particularly proud of. Send your letters to:
Cross Stitcher
30 Monmouth Street
Bath, Avon
BA1 2BW

Did you know?

You can use our free graph paper to chart original designs of your own. Please turn to the centre pages for this pullout section.

This lighthouse (below right) is one of the craft group's achievements.



Jon Knight and the photograph Lisa started her design from (below).

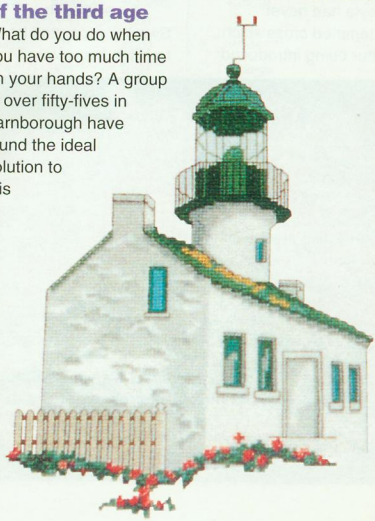
Mary Salter

Making the most of the third age

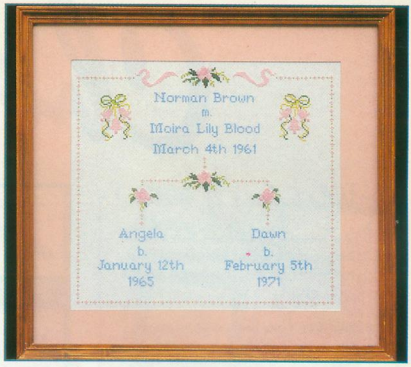
What do you do when you have too much time on your hands? A group of over fifty-fives in Farnborough have found the ideal solution to this problem. Every Tuesday morning Mary Salter's home is the venue for a University of the Third Age craft group. The sedate needlecrafts – cross stitch, embroidery and patchwork – are worked in her living room while messier crafts like flower arranging are done in the kitchen.

"We're not experts", Mary said. "We just enjoy stitching. If somebody has an idea they want to try out, they bring it with them and do it in my house. The main aim is to socialise while doing something we enjoy."

It all began about three years ago when a retired local teacher joined a University of the Third Age group in Guildford. Not wishing to travel so far to



The 16 members of this University of the Third Age craft group will be turning their hands to patchwork for the first time.



Angela's first sampler (right) showed her own family tree.

meetings, she decided to start her own group in Farnborough. Today this branch of the U3A has groups catering for over 36 subject areas.

"If three or more people are interested in a particular subject, they start a group. The average size of a group is about eight. As older people don't like going out at night very much all of the groups are held in the day. They cover interests as diverse as philosophy and canoeing.

We have some fine cross stitchers in the craft group and recently we held an exhibition where we showed our work. Everyone in the group is really very enthusiastic; we are always introducing people to new types of stitching and every new member contributes valuable expertise. So we learn and have lots of fun at the same time. The main purpose of the University of the Third Age is for people to enjoy themselves."

Angela Brown

Tracing your family tree

It often takes a special occasion or event to fire up people's enthusiasm for cross stitch. The birth of a friend's baby prompted Angela Brown, a teacher from Swansea, to start stitching six years ago: "I wanted to give her an original gift", she said, "and I decided that she wouldn't receive a cross stitch memento from anyone else."

Gradually, the stitching bug took hold of her and, starting with small gifts and cards, she progressed to larger projects before moving on to her own original designs. "I wanted to design something for myself that I hadn't seen anywhere before. My father's cousin had just completed our family tree spanning a couple of hundred years. I decided to cross stitch part of it – our branch of the family alone."

The project was successful and favourable comments brought a stream of commissions for personalised family trees from friends and relatives. The samplers show names and dates of marriages and births. "For my grandparents' golden wedding anniversary I stitched one which covered grandparents, parents and grandchildren, and I mounted a photograph of my grandparents on their wedding day alongside one of them on their golden wedding."

One sampler Angela stitched for a friend's birthday had a remarkable effect. "When the picture, complete with gold frame and pink mount was presented to him, he was so thrilled with it that he went out and bought pink paint to decorate the living room to complement his unusual gift."

Angela's stitching has grown to be in great demand. But now that she has a new husband, one can't help wondering how she will keep up with all those requests for stitched birth samplers ◆

Did you know?

One in five people in Britain today are said to be in their third age. This means that they are no longer involved in full-time employment (which is referred to as the second age) or in bringing up children (who are in their first age). Anyone in their third age can join the University of the Third Age which meets all over the country. All you need is interest and enthusiasm. To find out where your nearest group meets, send a large SAE to: U3A National Office 1 Stockwell Green London, SW9 9JF.

Did you know?

If you are trying to trace your family tree the best place to start is in your local library. St Catherine's House in Holborn, London keep records of births, deaths and marriages that anyone can go and look at.

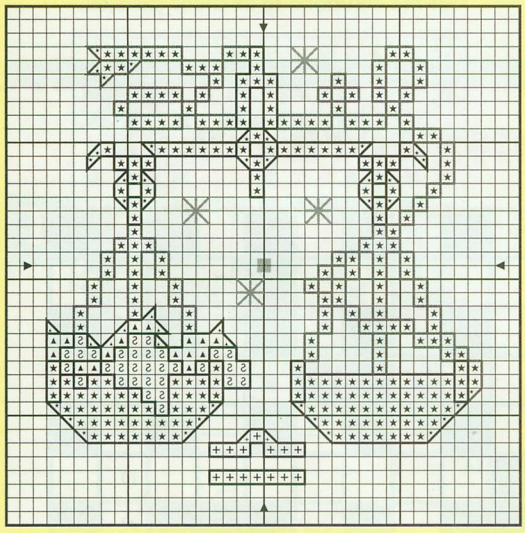
Angela's original designs (left and right) are in great demand among her family and friends.

Your

Libra

Marriage may be on the cards for some Librans – your own or that of someone close to you. Why not design your dress since your artistic flair is at its height? Not only do you feel optimistic and inspired, your social standing has never been better. You spread harmony with your good advice and balanced outlook. You may do some travelling for fun. Librans who work in service industries will be especially valued by colleagues. Now's the time to use your writing skills.

Turn to page 88 for a guide to understanding our projects.



You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 4x4in (10x10cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – one skein of each colour listed in the key
- **Tapestry or blunt-ended needle** – size 24
- **Card** – 6x4in (15x10cm)
- **Wadding** – small piece

Libra Key

Madeira	DMC	Anchor	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
0113	743	302	Yellow
0707	718	088	Purple
1201	993	186	Light green
Cross stitch in two strands of Madeira metallic No. 12			
Gold 34			Gold
Backstitch lines in one strand			
0202	740	316	Orange chain
1914	838	380	Brown outlines
Gold 34			Gold stars (2 strands)

Finished size: Stitch count 32 high x 30 wide
Fabric and approx. finished design area: 11HPI aida 2⅞x2¾in (7.3x6.9cm); 14HPI aida 2¼x2⅛in (5.7x5.4cm); 18HPI aida 1¾x1⅝in (4.5x4cm)

Sagittarius

A beneficial time for all fire signs, especially for Sagittarians. Venus joins Mercury in your sign to highlight people and the senses. Fight against falling back on stereotyped ways of expressing yourself. You will benefit from extra social activities and you review your career objectives, full of optimism about your future. Like Virgo you have increased expectations but you seek emotional fulfilment rather than status, which may come through further education.

Artistically, you are very flamboyant but avoid riding roughshod over others who are not having it so good.

Capricorn

Yours is an ambitious sign. You strive for success in all areas of your life and this is how you achieve security. You find it hard to understand why family members are at loggerheads over trifles.

The cause of the tension is family based – it could even be coming from you – but it is wreaking havoc in an area of your life that you hold dear. It may be your job to pour oil on the troubled waters.

You feel as if you are being undermined, but this is not the case. Keep an open mind, your friends nearby and the storm will eventually pass.

Are you about
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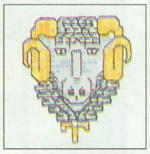
Aries



You will want to be very honest and very disciplined with yourself during November, and the presence of Saturn in Aquarius will make you persevere with any creative projects you are doing. Try to avoid being impatient with loved ones; don't allow arguments to develop out of trifles through your own erratic behaviour and irritability. No-one is trying to cramp your style so keep a balanced frame of mind and stop worrying about trivial things.

It's a good time to meet members of the opposite sex while you're in this idealistic frame of mind.

Taurus

Jupiter in your sister sign, Virgo, gives you lots of stamina and makes you work really hard. If you're thinking of starting a complicated piece of work now's the time to do it. But don't overdo it, especially at work – if you have to get someone else to help you, make sure you do. Friends could appear distant but they're just busy. Use this time to do away with old habits and situations that have been getting you down in the last year. Your opposite sign, Scorpio, has been causing much of this depression. Give free reign to creative impulses but avoid emotional intrigues.

Gemini

At last, the time has come for you to allow your itchy feet to lead you on an adventure, and Mercury in your sister sign of Libra inspires you, not just artistically, but also in any travel plans. This restlessness could make you decide to try out some ethnic styles and techniques in your own work. Saturn's presence in Aquarius will help you make the most of this energy without wasting it.

You must follow up every opportunity that comes your way, especially any commercial ones. This could be a good time to consider selling your work.

stars

start an ambitious course of study, or get Dieatacheako looks at October and November. a star sign design to go card? In each issue of give you a chart for the You can use it in a card all to make into an sampler later.

Aquarius

At present you are the most hard-working sign in the Zodiac. With Saturn so prominent in your sign, your mind is at its sharpest. You find that you can apply yourself easily to new ventures many of which you might well initiate yourself. You are disciplined, well organised and responsible.

But in relationships you may be accused of being cold, so try not to let your advice sound too harsh. Beware of becoming conceited, and of other people's jealousy of your soaring success while they are struggling. A good time for precise work.

Pisces

You really need to conserve your energy. You may be feeling run down although your health is generally good. Avoid conflicts with close female relatives. Towards the end of November you will be feeling energetic and ready for new enterprises. Like your sister sign Scorpio, you will be feeling very perceptive, but beware of deceiving yourself and of destructive relationships that create tensions and jealousies. You will be able to start creative projects, but save your money as it is being frittered away somewhere and you need it for a rainy day.

Cancer

You feel as if everything you touch ends in disaster. Turbulent Mars is in Cancer so be careful around sharp objects and when driving. You feel moody and misunderstood, and with emotions riding high, your home life is a battlefield. In calm moments you see this as a period of growth and you have almost prophetic insight into other people's problems as well as your own. Avoid being frustrated by complicated creative projects. Take heart, the end of November will bring better times when the turmoil can be channelled into producing some exceptional work.

Leo

October and November will be generous to all three fire signs, so just sit back and enjoy. Your creative powers are at their best so use them in physical, as well as mental, situations. Take advantage of Mercury joining Venus in Sagittarius - it will make you more sociable, optimistic and competitive in sport.

Avoid becoming involved in intense romantic jealousies – you may come out the loser. Save the drama for your artistic flair. This is a good time for charitable endeavours and you may want to add another educational string to your bow.

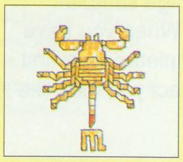
Virgo

Along with Cancer, you always have to be careful about food and your abdominal regions to avoid illness. This sort of problem is really the only bad news for November.

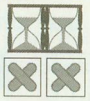
Never one to relax for long, you feel tempted to do some more studying. Recently, you have been feeling trapped by conflicting ideas. Frightened of letting your standards slip, you have been hard on yourself even to the point of overworking.

The time has come to flex your academic muscles and do that home study course or evening class. Why not reap the benefits of all that hard work?

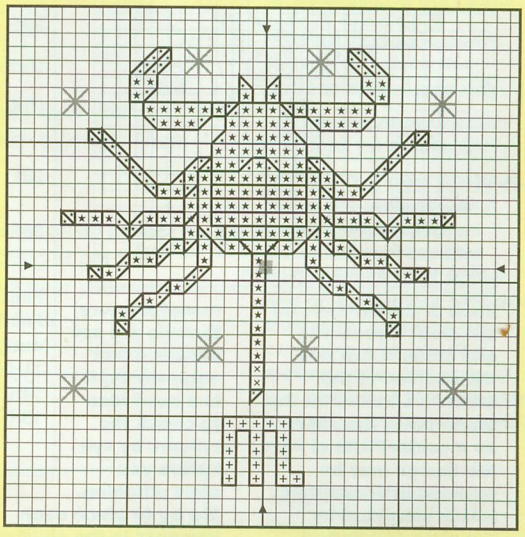
Scorpio



November is the start of an ambitious and demanding time. Mars in Cancer gives you an excess of energy, but avoid taking risks, especially with your health. When Mercury and Venus enter your sign on the twenty-second, you have a shrewd view on the world, but avoid stinging remarks that are better left unsaid. You enter a dramatic period of rebirth when Uranus joins Neptune in Capricorn. Why not review your career goals to break free from old habits and obligations?



Turn to page 88 for a guide to understanding our projects.



You will need

- **14HPI aida** – 4x4in (10x10cm), white
- **Stranded cotton** – one skein of each colour listed in the key
- **Tapestry or blunt-ended needle** – size 24
- **Card** – 6x4in (15x10cm)
- **Wadding** – small piece

Scorpio Key

Madeira	DMC	Anchor	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
0113	743	302	Yellow
0202	740	316	Orange
Cross stitch in two strands of Madeira metallic No. 12			
Gold 34			Gold
Backstitch lines in one strand			
1914	838	380	Brown outlines
Gold 34			Gold stars (2 strands)

Finished size: Stitch count 32 high x 30 wide
Fabric and approx. finished design area: 11HPI aida 2⅞x2¾in (7.3x6.9cm); 14HPI aida 2¼x2⅛in (5.7x5.4cm); 18HPI aida 1¾x1⅝in (4.5x4cm)

ADVICE

Guidelines

How to start cross stitch

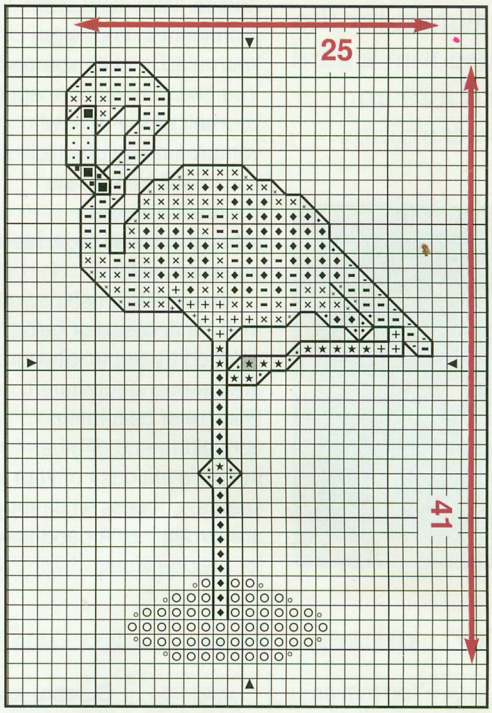
If you are competely new to cross stitch and about to tackle a project for the first time, we recommend you stitch our cover kit. Turn to pages 4 and 5 for a complete step-by-step guide to starting cross stitch and making your cottage sampler.

When you have completed your first project you may like to move on to a larger one. The guidelines on these pages will help you stitch one of these, and will teach you more about this fascinating pastime.

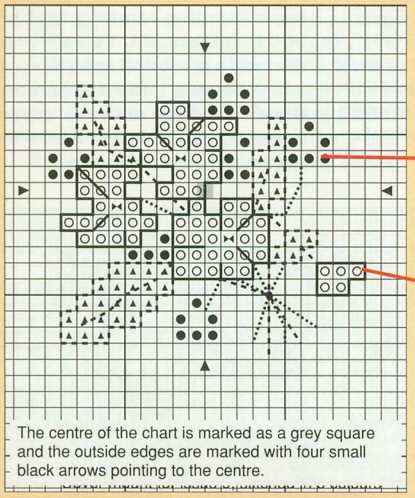
Sizing your project

We give approximate finished design sizes wherever possible, but you may need to calculate how big a design will be on a different fabric. Simply divide the number of stitches by the HPI of your fabric.

If your project is 41 stitches high by 25 stitches wide like the flamingo below and you are using 14HPI fabric, 41 divided by 14 makes approx. 3in (7.5cm) high, and 25 divided by 14 makes approx. 1¾in (4.5cm) wide. The only time this rule differs is on linen where you stitch over two threads. Use the same calculation, but first divide the HPI by two.



Understanding our charts and keys



The centre of the chart is marked as a grey square and the outside edges are marked with four small black arrows pointing to the centre.

Key

DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
Cross stitch in two strands			
019	817	0212	Red
094	552	0713	Mauve
261	368	1310	Green
295	726	0109	Yellow
Backstitch all lines in one strand			
019	817	0212	Red flower outlines
261	368	1310	Green stems
381	938	2003	Brown leaf outlines

Finished size: 18 high x 20 wide
Fabric and approximate finished design area:
11HPI aida 1⅝x1⅞in (4x4.8cm)
14HPI aida 1⅜x1½in (3.5x3.8cm)
18HPI aida 1x1⅛in (2.5x2.8cm)

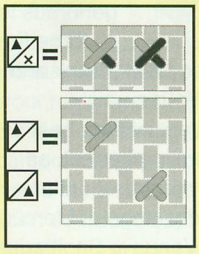
Each of the symbols on the chart represents one cross stitch and the position of the stitch is counted on the fabric using the chart as a guide. Parts of the design may be outlined in backstitch; this is identified by the plain and dotted heavy lines around the stitch symbols.

The key tells you which symbols represent which colours on the chart. Our models are stitched in the threads that are listed in the first column. As the different manufacturers' threads are not always exact equivalents, it is a good idea to check the colours by eye before you start stitching. We try to place each key next to the chart it refers to.

When a colour appears more than once in the key, you usually still only need one skein (we will tell you if you need any more). Other embroidery stitches, such as french knots, are listed at the end.

We also give details of the finished size of your project (how many stitches high and how many wide) and the size of the finished design according to which fabric you choose. If you want to work it on another fabric, please read *Sizing your Project*.

Three quarter and quarter stitch



If there are two symbols on a single square of the chart, make the first half of the cross from bottom left to top right. Bring your needle out at the other corner and in at the centre. You can then work the quarter stitch from the remaining corner to the centre afterwards.

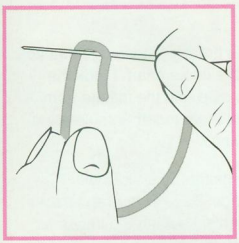
Ratings

At the beginning of each project you will find two types of icons. The hourglasses show approximately how long it will take an average stitcher of that skill level to complete the project.

The crosses show the level of experience you will need to stitch that particular project.

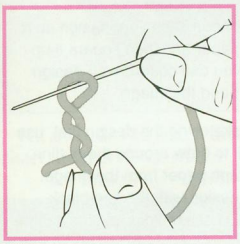
1 hourglass	an evening	Beginner	✕
2 hourglasses	a week	Easy	✕ ✕
3 hourglasses	less than a month	Skilled	✕ ✕ ✕
4 hourglasses	more than a month	Expert	✕ ✕ ✕ ✕

On these pages we give you all the instructions you need to finish your projects beautifully, or if you prefer, to adapt them for another fabric.

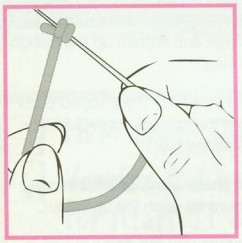


French knots

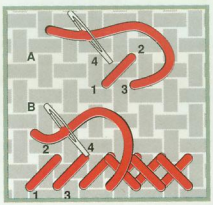
Bring the needle up where you want the knot to be. Hold the thread as it comes out of the fabric with your left hand.



For a small knot, twist the needle round the yarn once; for a large knot, twist it round two or three times. Holding the thread taut, pass the needle down into the fabric, close to the emerging thread.



When the needle is halfway through the fabric tighten the thread close up to the needle to form a knot. Continue pushing the needle and thread back to the wrong side of the fabric.



Stitching on linen

This is different from stitching on aida fabric. Instead of working each stitch over one thread in each direction, you should make each stitch over two threads of the material.

Small plastic frames

1 Holding the frame in both hands, push out the clear plastic and snap-in back, with your thumbs.

2 Place the clear plastic centrally over your stitching and draw round it with a pencil. Then cut around the line.

3 Now decide if you want to use a small piece of wadding behind your stitching or put the clear plastic in front instead. Whichever you choose, centre your fabric on the snap-in back and carefully push it into the frame. You may find it takes several attempts to centre the design, especially if you are using wadding.

Flexi-hoops

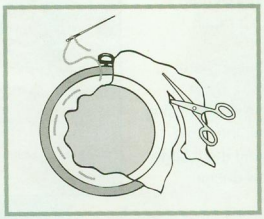
1 Use the inside ring of the flexi-hoop as a template to cut out a felt backing disk.

2 Place the finished design centrally in the flexi-hoop.

3 Cut away any excess fabric, leaving about 1in (2.5cm) all the way round.

4 Make a row of stitches about ½in (13mm) in from the edge of the fabric, gather up tightly and secure the thread.

5 Place the felt backing disk over the back of the flexi-hoop and secure with a row of small running stitches on the edge of it.



Finishing your projects

Washing your work

1 If you need to you can carefully wash your work in lukewarm water. If the colours start to run, do not be tempted to stop rinsing until the bleeding has stopped.

2 Pad your ironing board with a towel and place a clean, thin cloth on top of it. Place the design wrong side up and carefully press – the thickness of the towel will stop you from ironing the stitching flat.

3 Iron the work until it is dry – but make sure the iron isn't too hot or it could scorch the fabric. Now you are ready to lace your work.

Lacing your work

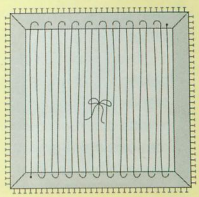
1 Place the work over the mount board with the design in the centre, right side up.

2 Push pins along the top, going through the fabric and lightly into the board.

3 Pull the fabric gently and pin along the bottom in the same way.

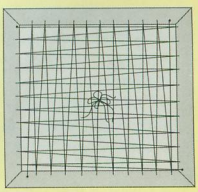
4 Repeat these instructions for each side.

5 Working from the back of the project, use a large-eyed needle, threaded with crochet cotton. Tie a knot at the end of your cotton and lace from each side into the centre using a circular motion under and over. If you run out of thread before you reach the centre, join it with a reef knot.



6 Pull the crochet cotton tightly from each side and tie in the centre.

7 Repeat this for the other two sides.



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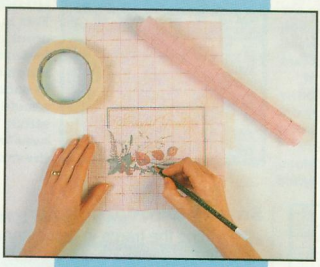
Design your own

It is often difficult to find exactly the design you want for that special birthday or anniversary. Susan Penny takes you step by step through the process of creating your own designs using the *Cross Stitcher* graph paper.

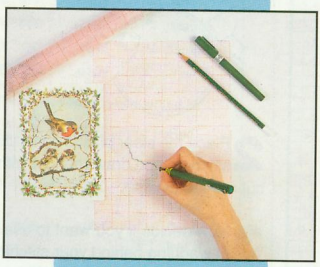
Creating your own designs is a lot easier than you might think, especially if you use the graph paper we've given you (please turn to the centre pages).

Look for inspiration for your designs in photographs, old postcards or any line drawing. Try to pick something that has clear outlines as this will make it much easier to create your design.

If you can't find exactly what you are looking for on one picture, please don't despair. You can easily make a design using several different sources. I took the robin from one old Christmas card and the foliage from another, to create my new design.



1 Lay your graph paper over the picture and trace the image you want.



2 Square up the design on the graph paper using a fine black pen.

3 Repeat the process for any other images you want on your design.

4 Colour in the chart with felt tipped pens and select your thread colours.

1 Pick out the areas of the image that you want to make into a chart. I took the robin from one card and the foliage from another and put them together to create a lovely winter scene.

2 Tape your picture to a table with masking tape. Tape your graph paper over the top of this, keeping the image as square as possible.

3 You can either sketch your design on to the graph paper and then square it up afterwards, or you can square your design as you draw around the image.

4 If you are sketching the design first, use your pencil to draw around the outline. Remove the graph paper from the image. Square up the design with the fine black pen, copying the lines of your original image.

5 If you are less confident about your drawing ability, leave the graph paper taped to the image and square up the design as you are working.

6 Colour your chart using felt tipped pens to represent the colours you would like to use on the stitched piece.

7 Using your shade card, select stranded cotton colours for each felt tip colour.

8 List the colours you are going to use in the key below the graph paper.

9 If are going to send your design to a magazine or kit manufacturer, you must get into the habit of making your own symbol charts. But if the design is for your own use, you can start stitching right away.

10 Re-chart the design substituting a symbol for each of the colours you have used. Avoid using symbols that are too similar or you will have difficulty when you are stitching.

To chart your own designs you will need

- ***Cross Stitcher*** **graph paper**
- **Selection of design materials –** cards, photographs and drawings
- **Pencil**
- **Felt tipped pens –** in different colours
- **Fine black pen –** for charting
- **Shade card –** DMC, Anchor or Madeira
- **Graph paper –** for charting
- **Masking tape**

Can you design?

Do you have a design you think other *Cross Stitcher* readers would like to stitch? Send it to us and we will pay you a minimum of £25 if we publish it. Your idea must be original – no part of it can be copied or have been used in any other published form. All the designs we publish become the exclusive property of *Cross Stitcher*, so we can't send them back, but if you enclose an SAE we'll return any unpublished work.

Send the stitched piece, a list of materials, and a symbol chart on graph paper, with your name and address to: *Cross Stitcher*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon, BA1 2BW.